BLOODY CROSS

by YONEYAMA Shiwo

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BLOODY CROSS

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BLOODY CROSS

ブラッディ・クロス

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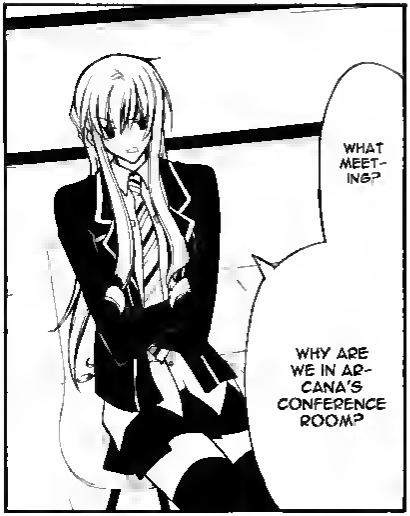
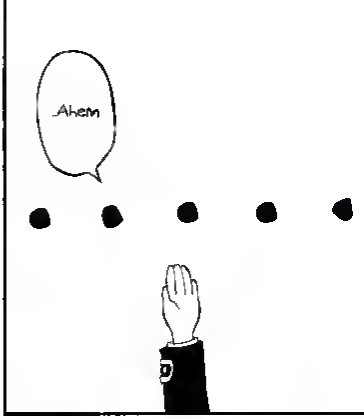
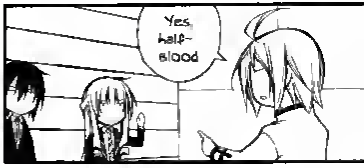
BLOODY CROSS

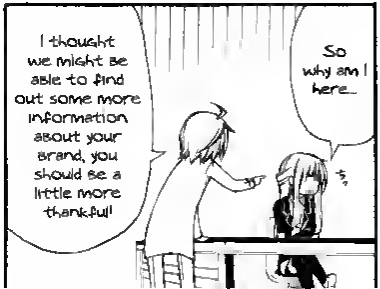
ALRIGHT
PRE-PARATIONS ARE COM-PLETE GENTLE-MEN!!
THE FIRST REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING WILL NOW COM-MENCE!

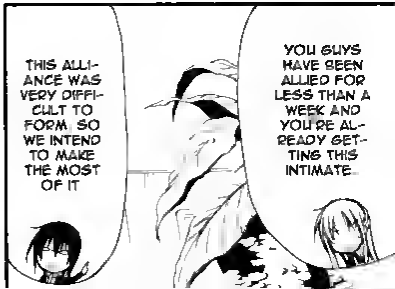

WHAT MEETING?
WHY ARE WE IN ARCANA'S CONFERENCE ROOM?


Ahem

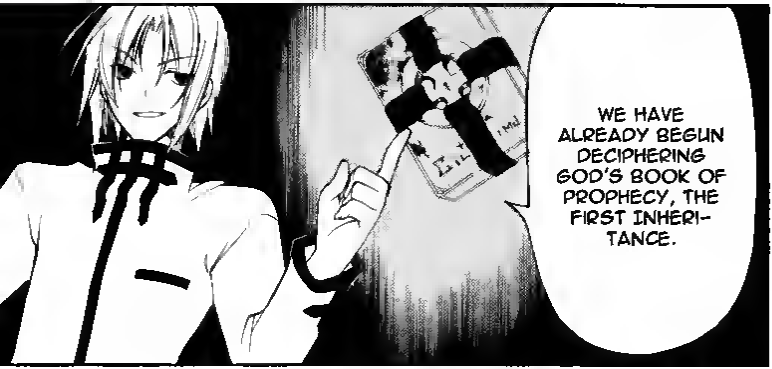

Yes, half-blood

BECAUSE TSUZUKI AND ARCANA HAVE FORMED AN ALLIANCE
FROM NOW ON, WE WILL BE HOLDING REGULARLY SCHEDULE MEETINGS TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION
AND TODAY MARKS THE FIRST OF THOSE MEETINGS
UNDERSTAND?

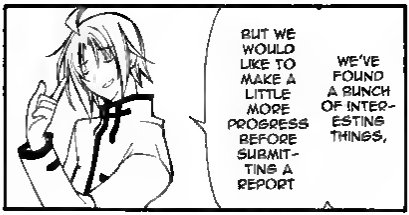

So why am I here...
I thought we might be able to find out some more information about your brand, you should be a little more thankful!

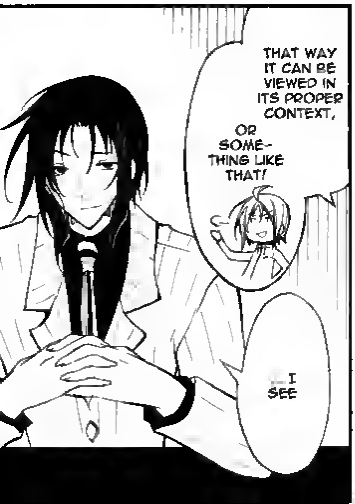

YOU GUYS HAVE BEEN ALLIED FOR LESS THAN A WEEK AND YOU'RE ALREADY GETTING THIS INTIMATE...
THIS ALLIANCE WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO FORM. SO WE INTEND TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT

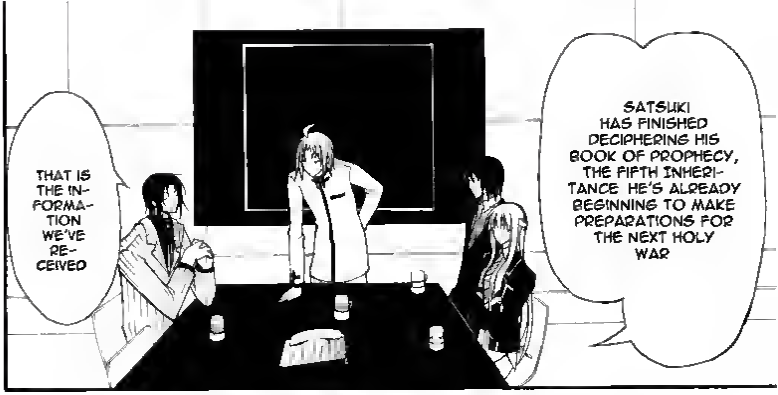
WELL, THEN, HAVE YOU MADE ANY PROG-RESS?
BUT OF COURSE!


WE HAVE ALREADY BEGUN DECIPHERING GOD'S BOOK OF PROPHECY, THE FIRST INHERI-TANCE.

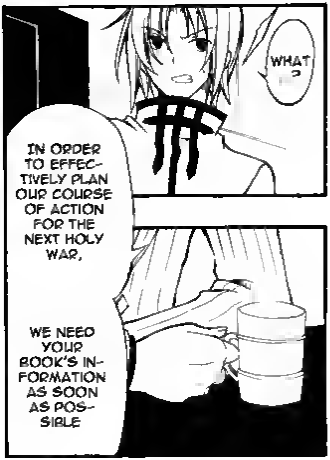
!
OH?

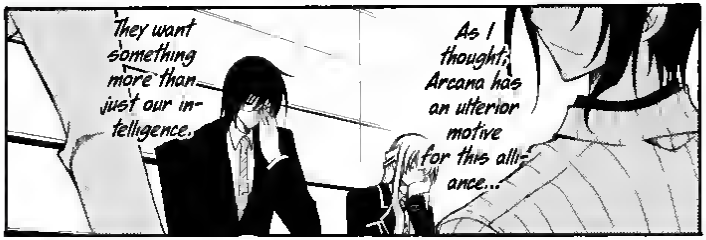

WE'VE FOUND A BUNCH OF INTER-ESTING THINGS,
BUT WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A LITTLE MORE PROGRESS BEFORE SUBMIT-TING A REPORT


THAT WAY IT CAN BE VIEWED IN ITS PROPER CONTEXT,
OR SOME-THING LIKE THAT!
I SEE

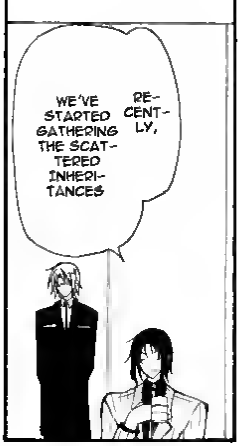

SATSUKI HAS FINISHED DECIPHERING HIS BOOK OF PROPHECY, THE FIFTH INHERITANCE HE'S ALREADY BEGINNING TO MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR THE NEXT HOLY WAR
THAT IS THE INFORMATION WE'VE RECEIVED

PLEASE DECIPHER IT QUICKLY.


WHAT?
IN ORDER TO EFFECTIVELY PLAN OUR COURSE OF ACTION FOR THE NEXT HOLY WAR,
WE NEED YOUR BOOK'S INFORMATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

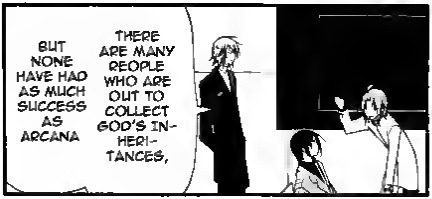

They want something more than just our intelligence.
As I thought, Arcana has an ulterior motive for this alliance...

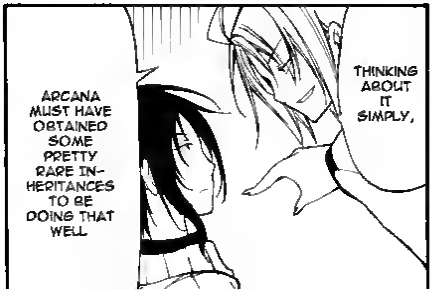
NATURALLY,
THESE AREN'T NUMBERED OR RELATED TO THE HOLY WAR; THEY'RE JUST ORDINARY INHERITANCES
WE HAVE OBTAINED QUITE A FEW


WE'VE STARTED GATHERING THE SCATTERED INHERITANCES
RECENTLY,

YOU MUST HAVE PICKED UP SOME PRETTY FAMOUS ONES
OH?
ROUGHLY HOW MANY HAVE YOU GATHERED?

YOU SHOULD FINISH DECIPHERING THE FIRST INHERITANCE
AFTER THAT, WE CAN GET RID OF OUR MUTUAL SUSPICIONS AND TELL EACH OTHER A LITTLE MORE ABOUT OURSELVES


BUT NONE HAVE HAD AS MUCH SUCCESS AS ARCANA
THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE WHO ARE OUT TO COLLECT GOD'S INHERITANCES,


ARCANA MUST HAVE OBTAINED SOME PRETTY RARE INHERITANCES TO BE DOING THAT WELL
THINKING ABOUT IT SIMPLY,

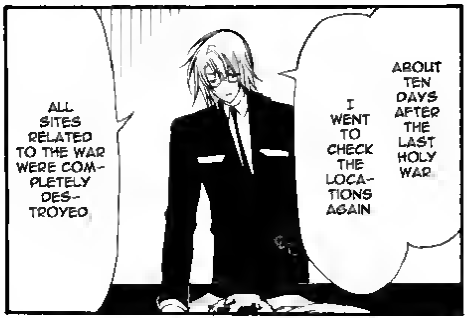
ゴト…

OH?
WE DID COME ACROSS SOMETHING OF INTEREST DURING OUR HUNT FOR THE INHERITANCES.
ALTHOUGH NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT,

YES.
MAKINO-KUN

WHAT IS THAT?

THIS…


ALL SITES RELATED TO THE WAR WERE COMPLETELY DESTROYED.
I WENT TO CHECK THE LOCATIONS AGAIN
ABOUT TEN DAYS AFTER THE LAST HOLY WAR.

WHICH WAS THE LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF HINATA AND SATSUKI'S SPY.
IS ALL THAT REMAINED OF THE CHURCH
Hinata's body wasn't there.
That church...
but I wasn't able to see if he lived or died.
I was able to read everything from the blood up until when Nao stabbed him.

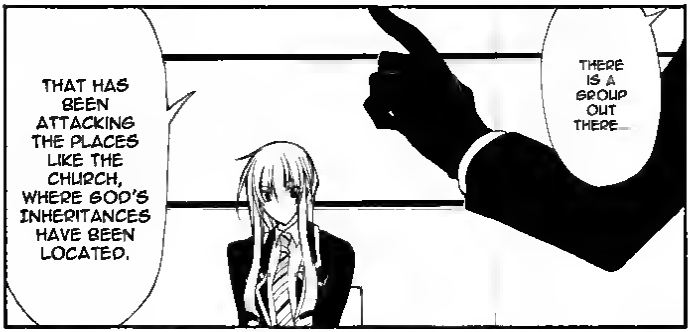
Furthermore...
THE EXISTENCE OF THIS CHURCH IS IN VIOLATION OF PROTOCOL 13 REGARDING THE CONCEALMENT OF THE HOLY WARS.
IN ACCORDANCE WITH MY JUDGMENT.
IT SHALL BE DELETED.
I AM TOKIWA.
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'VE NOTICED, BUT I.... AM A FALLEN ANGEL.
WHY WOULD A FALLEN ANGEL BEAR THE SAME BRAND AS ME?
IS THIS NOT...
A CONTINUATION OF THE HALF-BLOOD'S BRAND!?

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, I'M RETURNING NOW.
ピッ
……
ｲｲｲｲ
……
TSUKIMIYA
WE WILL MEET AGAIN IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
WE'LL TALK MORE THEN.
OY!!!
WHAT THE HELL?!
THAT WAS TOO LOUD!
BUT YOU WEREN'T PAYING ATTENTION!

AHEM... BASICALLY, THE CHURCH AND THE PLACES WHERE THE FOURTH AND FIFTH INHERITANCES WERE LOCATED
HAVE ALL VANISHED WITHOUT TRACE

THE TRUTH IS...

I'M LISTENING NOW
PLEASE CONTINUE
!

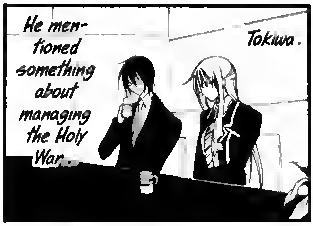

THERE IS A GROUP OUT THERE...
THAT HAS BEEN ATTACKING THE PLACES LIKE THE CHURCH, WHERE GOD'S INHERITANCES HAVE BEEN LOCATED.

THAT'S IT, DELETE!
!

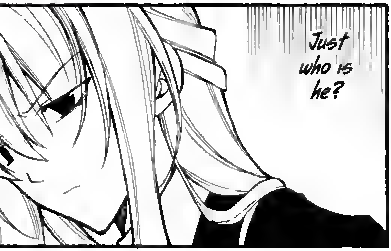
"DELETING"

NO
ATTACKING ISN'T REALLY THE RIGHT WORD...
.....

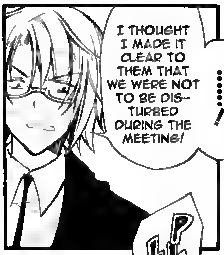
MANY OF GOD'S INHERITANCES THAT WE'VE TRIED TO OBTAIN...
HAVE BEEN STOLEN BY THIS GROUP...
!
WELL, THAT IS INDEED AN OBSTACLE.


He mentioned something about managing the Holy War.
Tokuwa.

WE FEEL THE SAME WAY.
AND IT'S HIGHLY LIKELY THAT THIS GROUP THINKS THE SAME OF ARCANA.


Just who is he?

PI...
フッ


I THOUGHT I MADE IT CLEAR TO THEM THAT WE WERE NOT TO BE DISTURBED DURING THE MEETING!
.....!
PI...

PI...
PI...

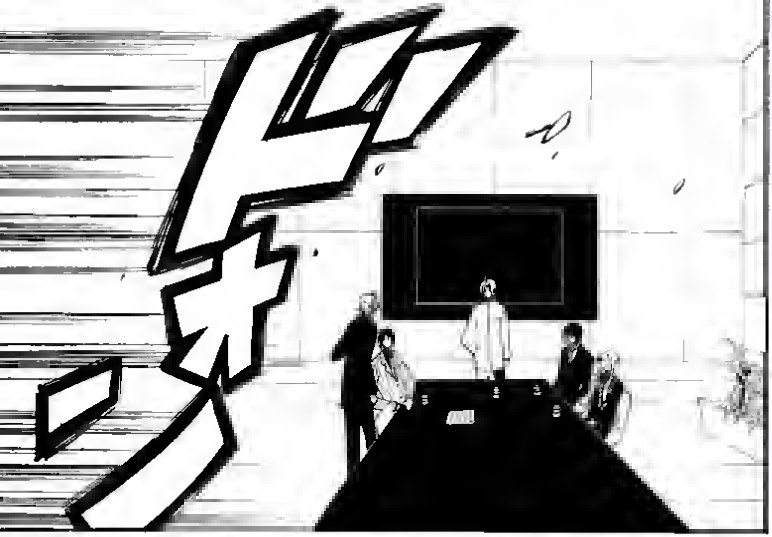
PLL
PLL

WHAT DID YOU SAY?
HUH?

WE'RE BUSY RIGHT NOW

PLL
PLL

YOUR
YOUR EXCELLENCY THIS IS BAD
THE LOWER FLOORS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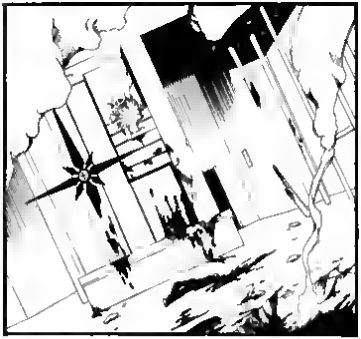
SO, THIS IS ARCANA'S STRONG-HOLD...
ARCAN

HELLO? WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THERE?
WHAT THE HELL!?
!?

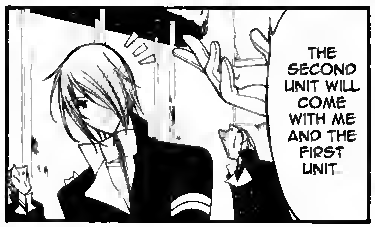


CAN YOU HEAR ME?!
HEY - SAY SOME-THING!

DON'T TELL ME...
THAT THIS ENTIRE STRUCTURE BELONGS TO ARCANA?

WE WILL COMMENCE THE PURGING OF ARCANA.
ARCANA

START-ING NOW,


THE SECOND UNIT WILL COME WITH ME AND THE FIRST UNIT.

THE FIFTH UNIT WILL TAKE A DIFFER-ENT ROUTE

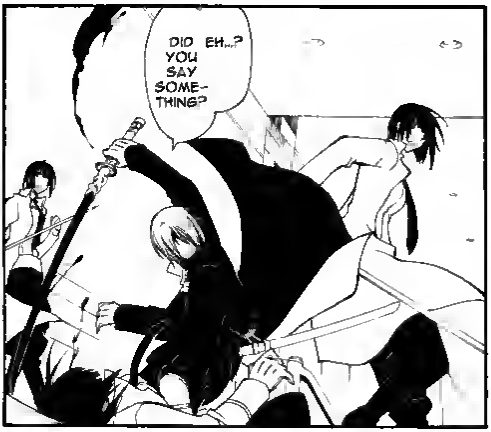
ARCANA REPORTEDLY ONLY OCCUPY THE 30TH FLOOR THROUGH THE 50TH FLOOR.
IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN AT LEAST HALF A DAY TO SEIZE CONTROL OF THE ENTIRE BUILDING
THAT'S A RELIEF

WHO ARE THESE GUYS?
!!!
WHAT DID YOU SAY...?
T-THEY'RE THE ONES WHO HAVE BEEN GOING AFTER THE INHERI-TANCES,
I MET HIM ONCE BEFORE!
WHAT ABOUT THE INHERI-TANCE THAT WE RECENTLY ACQUIRED?
THEY ARE SECURELY LOCKED IN THE VAULT
EX-CEL-LENT

THE CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE NEGATED THE FUTURE THAT I HAD FORESEEN.
THE FUTURE WILL NOW BE INFLUENCED BY THE DISTURBANCES FROM THE LAST HOLY WAR
NEVERTHELESS,
WE CANNOT AFFORD TO HAND OVER ANY INHERITANCE
UNDERSTOOD
ALL VISITORS WITHOUT APPOINTMENTS WILL NOW BE REMOVED
STRENGHTEN SECURITY!
DO NOT ALLOW THEM TO PROGRESS ANY FURTHER

THE PRESI-DENT IS UNABLE TO SEE YOU NOW
PLEASE LEAVE
KIKU-SAKA, MOVE THEM
YES SIR
IF YOU WILL NOT LEAVE OF YOUR OWN ACCORD, WE WILL USE FORCE
!

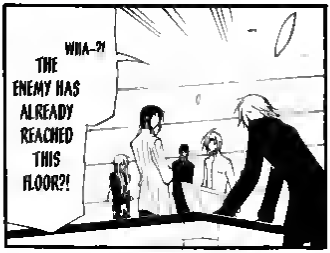
TO BE ABLE TO DIE FROM ONE OF GOD'S INHERI-TANCES
IS AN HONOR-ABLE DEATH, YOUNG LADIES


DID YOU SAY SOME-THING? EH...?

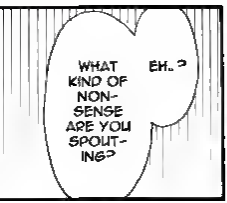
BE THANK-FUL

TOKIWA-SAN,
THE PATH IS CLEARED

THESE ENEMIES SEEM TO BE A BIT TROUBLESOME
YOU SHOULD ESCAPE... I WILL LEAD YOU TO THE BACK EXIT.


WHA-?!
THE ENEMY HAS ALREADY REACHED THIS FLOOR?!

MODERN BUILDINGS ARE EASY TO CAPTURE
YOU CAN'T UNDERESTIMATE THE ELEVATORS


EH..?
WHAT KIND OF NONSENSE ARE YOU SPOUTING?

THIS WAY
THEY HAVEN'T SOLIDIFIED A PERIMETER YET, SO YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO BREAK THROUGH.

WHAT COULD WE POSSIBLY DO AT A TIME LIKE THIS BESIDES LEND YOU A HAND AND PUT YOU IN A DEBT OF GRATITUDE?
WE'RE ALLIES NOW, YOU KNOW.
What a pain.
Roger
BUT JUST TO BE SAFE, YOU TWO WILL ASSIST ME.
I'M PRETTY SURE I COULD HANDLE THIS BY MYSELF,
HUH ...?
UMM ..
?
WE'RE DOING YOU A HUUUGE FAVOR, SO BE SURE TO PAY US BACK.
IF YOU GUYS WERE TO BE DESTROYED, IT WOULD BE TROUBLESOME FOR US
MAN,

MAYBE WE'VE OVER-STAYED OUR WEL-COME?
UNLESS OF COURSE YOU'RE HIDING SOME-THING THAT YOU DON'T WANT KNOWN ..
.....
OH? I'VE YET TO MEET ANYONE SMARTER THAN ME
YOU SHOULD TRY TO BE A BIT SMARTER
YOU'RE MORE THICK-HEADED THAN I ORIGINALLY ANTICI-PATED;
THE ENEMIES,
THEY'RE ALMOST HERE!

ヒュ
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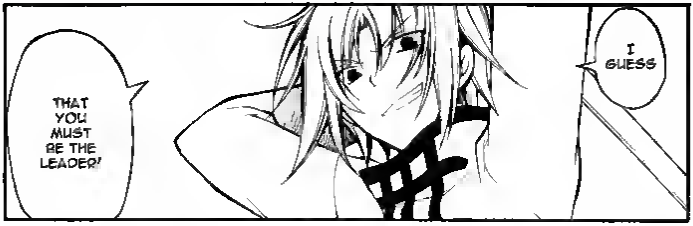
ヒュ
カ…
EVERYONE..
COME OUT QUIETLY. RESISTANCE IS FUTILE.
I DON'T WANT ANY POINTLESS DEATHS

YOU SEEM TO BE PRETTY FULL OF YOURSELF...

I AM GLAD TO HAVE FOUND YOU SO QUICKLY
YOU ARE ARCANA'S REPRESENTATIVE CORRECT?


I GUESS
THAT YOU MUST BE THE LEADER!

YOU OUGHT TO KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT DURING SURPRISE ATTACKS.

I DON'T RECALL ORDERING FOR ANY SMALL FRIES

ドゴォ

PROTECT THE COM-MAND-ER
"SUSPEN-SION"
"BINDING!!"

WHA-
YOU AS WELL,
"BECOME BOUND!!"

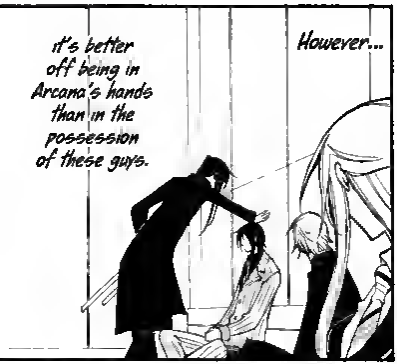
EH...?
THAT WAS EASY ENOUGH
!?

I SIMPLY HAD TO MAKE USE OF THE ANTI-ANGEL INHERI-TANCE FOR A BIT.
I HAD INFOR-MATION THAT THE GOD CANDI-DATE WOULD BE HERE
.....
!!

DON'T DO IT
IF YOU DRAW A WEAPON, YOU'LL BE TARGETED
SIT BACK AND EVALUATE THE SITUATION
WE HAVE SEIZED CONTROL OF ALL THE FLOORS
WE ARE CURRENTLY SEARCHING FOR GOD'S INHERITANCES
I'D SAY WE'VE RECOVERED ABOUT 80% OF THEM,
HOWEVER THE MOST VALUABLE ONES ARE QUITE WELL-HIDDEN.
IT WILL BE MUCH FASTER IF WE JUST HAVE THE PRESIDENT TELL US

WHERE IS "IT"?
.....
IF YOU WON'T ANSWER ME OF YOUR OWN WILL, I'LL HAVE TO FORCE YOU TO SPIT IT OUT

YOU SHOULD TALK BEFORE SOMEONE GETS HURT,
TELL ME THE WHEREABOUTS OF ARCANA'S MOST VALUABLE INHERITANCE
WHERE IS THE "GRAIL OF CREATION?"

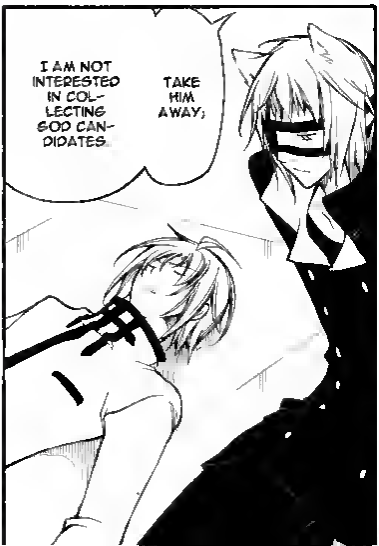

However...
It's better off being in Arcana's hands than in the possession of these guys.

!!

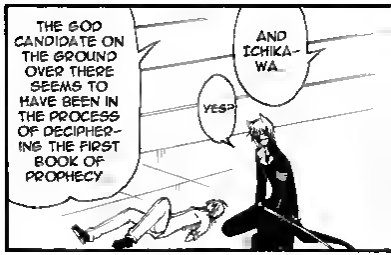
Did Arcana actually obtain something like that?
The Grail. Even by the standards of God's Inheritances, that is an extremely powerful artifact

YOU SPEAK FREELY ABOUT MY CLOSELY-GUARDED SECRETS IN THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS
YOU DON'T CALL AHEAD, YOU WALK ABOUT IN YOUR STREET SHOES, AND ON TOP OF THAT...

YOU HAVE NO CLASS
I SUSPECT YOUR UPBRINGING WAS POOR,


I AM NOT INTERESTED IN COLLECTING GOD CANDIDATES
TAKE HIM AWAY;

ROGER
TAKE HIM AND MAKE HIM TALK
..WELL THEN KIKUSAKA, IT'S YOUR TURN

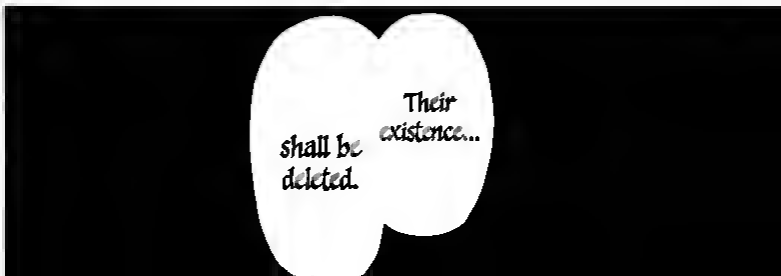

THE GOD CANDIDATE ON THE GROUND OVER THERE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN IN THE PROCESS OF DECIPHERING THE FIRST BOOK OF PROPHECY
AND ICHIKAWA...
YES?

SIT BACK DOWN
KUH
GAH
NICE TO MEET YOU.
SINCE YOU ARE NOT WITH ARCANA,
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE, BEHAVE YOUR-SELF

THEIR EXISTENCE IS EVIL IN AND OF ITSELF.

ARCANA,
THEY'RE NOTHING BUT LOW-BORN BANDITS
WHO GREEDILY HUNT FOR GOD'S INHERITANCE.

In the name of Kamuhaburi, the "GOD BURIERS", I will purge them.


Their existence...
shall be deleted.

BLOODY CROSS

by YONEYAMA Shiwo

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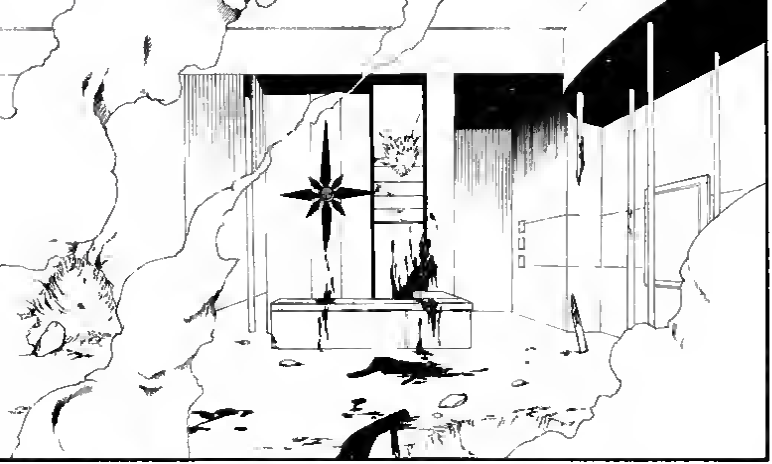
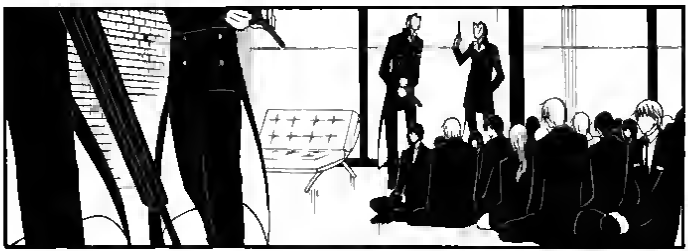
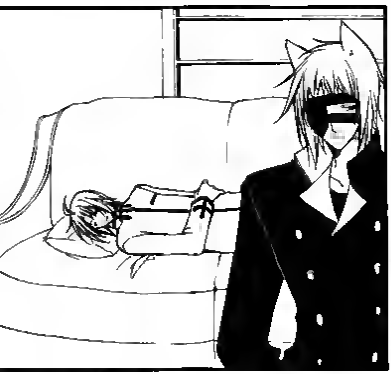
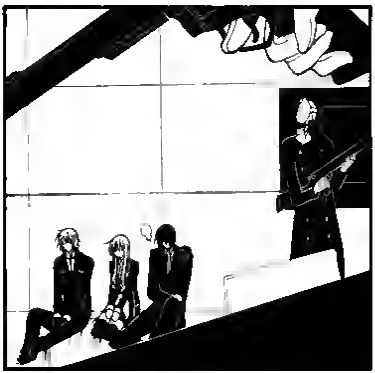




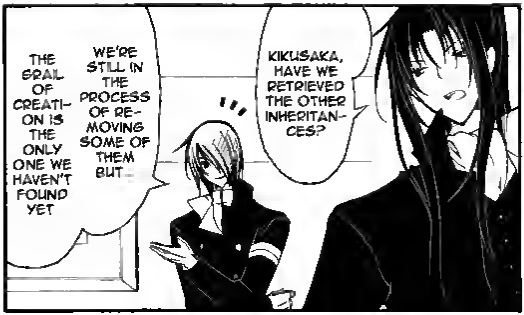




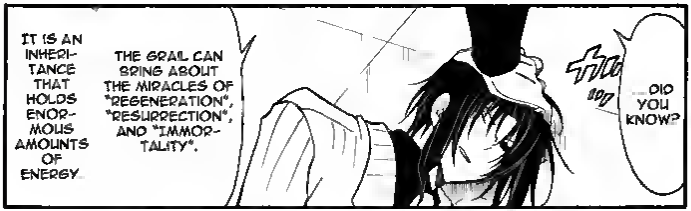
CHAPTER 25: THOSE WHO WERE CAPTURED

OH, AND RESISTANCE IS FUTILE, OF COURSE.
SO DON'T TRY ANY-THING.

WELL?
WHAT DO YOU THINK, MR. PRESI-DENT?


KIKUSAKA, HAVE WE RETRIEVED THE OTHER INHERITAN-CES?
...
WE'RE STILL IN THE PROCESS OF RE-MOVING SOME OF THEM BUT...
THE GRAIL OF CREATI-ON IS THE ONLY ONE WE HAVEN'T FOUND YET

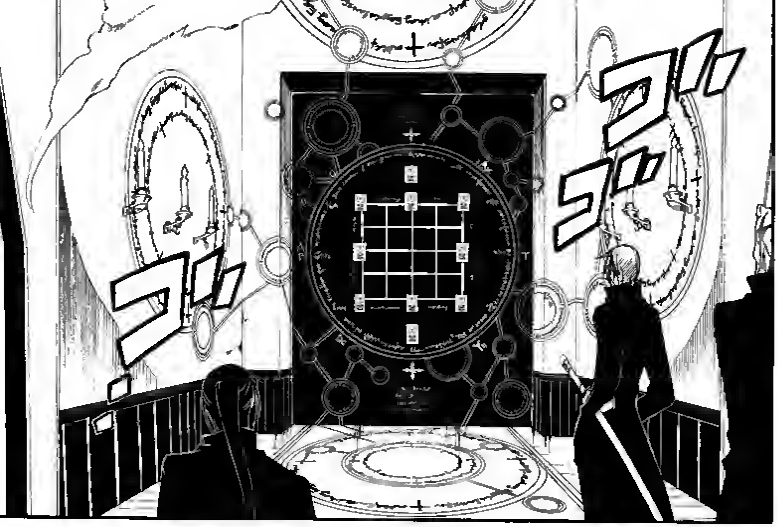
WHERE IS IT HIDDEN?
PEOPLE INSTINCTI-VELY HIDE IMPORTANT THINGS WITHIN THEIR RANGE OF VISION.
I THINK THIS OFFICE SEEMS A LITTLE SUSPICI-OUS


...DID YOU KNOW?
THE GRAIL CAN BRING ABOUT THE MIRACLES OF "REGENERATION", "RESURRECTION", AND "IMMORTALITY".
IT IS AN INHERITANCE THAT HOLDS ENORMOUS AMOUNTS OF ENERGY

.....
AND WHAT DID YOU PEOPLE COME TO STEAL IT FOR?

NOW WHAT EXACTLY DID YOU PEOPLE INTEND TO USE IT FOR?

AH!
I FOUND SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS!
OH?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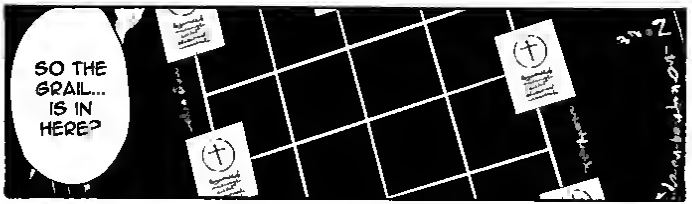
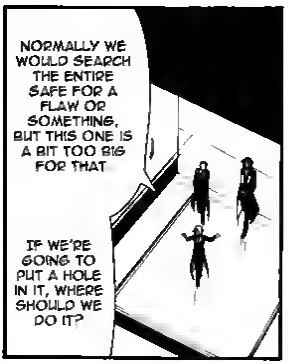
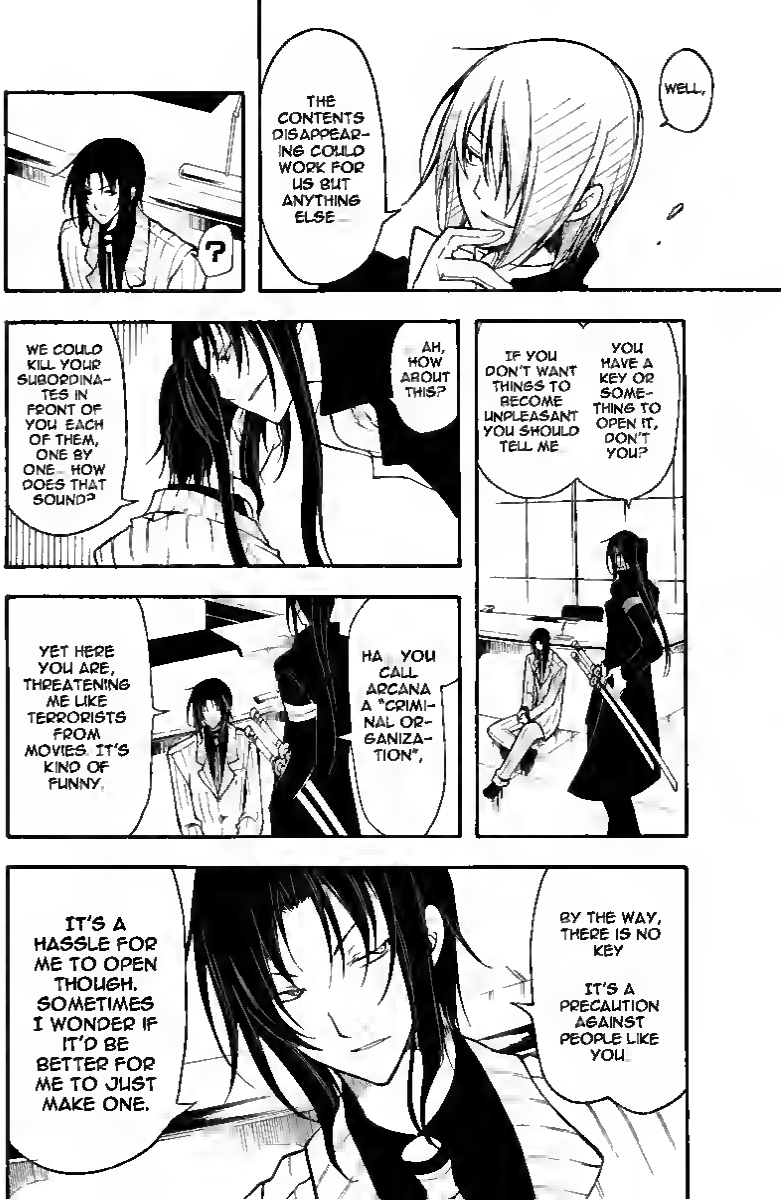

SO THE GRAIL... IS IN HERE?

WAIT. IZUMI DOESN'T SEEM WORRIED AT ALL. SOMETHING FEELS WRONG.

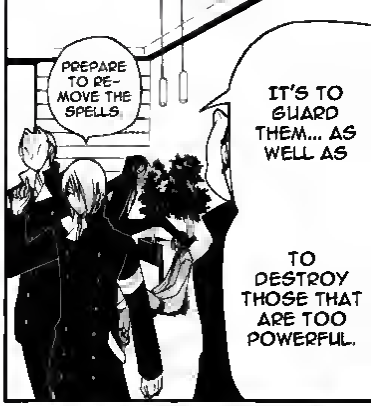

NORMALLY WE WOULD SEARCH THE ENTIRE SAFE FOR A FLAW OR SOMETHING, BUT THIS ONE IS A BIT TOO BIG FOR THAT.
IF WE'RE GOING TO PUT A HOLE IN IT, WHERE SHOULD WE DO IT?

HMM...
SO IF WE TRY TO OPEN WITH FORCE, THE CONTENTS WILL VANISH OR THE FLOOR WILL DISAPPEAR OR SOME OTHER CLICHÉ.
THERE MAY BE A TRAP RIGGED TO GO OFF IF IT ISN'T OPENED PROPERLY.


?
THE CONTENTS DISAPPEARING COULD WORK FOR US BUT ANYTHING ELSE...
WELL,
WE COULD KILL YOUR SUBORDINATES IN FRONT OF YOU EACH OF THEM, ONE BY ONE... HOW DOES THAT SOUND?
AH, HOW ABOUT THIS?
IF YOU DON'T WANT THINGS TO BECOME UNPLEASANT YOU SHOULD TELL ME
YOU HAVE A KEY OR SOMETHING TO OPEN IT, DON'T YOU?
YET HERE YOU ARE, THREATENING ME LIKE TERRORISTS FROM MOVIES. IT'S KIND OF FUNNY.
HA... YOU CALL ARCANA A "CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION",
IT'S A HASSLE FOR ME TO OPEN THOUGH. SOMETIMES I WONDER IF IT'D BE BETTER FOR ME TO JUST MAKE ONE.
BY THE WAY, THERE IS NO KEY
IT'S A PRECAUTION AGAINST PEOPLE LIKE YOU.

DO IT IN ONE.
ROUGHLY AROUND 5 HOURS
BUT THAT'S THE BARE MINIMUM
KIKUSAKA,
HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO BREAK THE SPELLS AND OPEN THE DOOR?
HEY,
THERE'S ONE THING I WANT YOU TO DO.
DO NOT...
GROUP US WITH HYENAS LIKE YOU WHO SWARM AROUND THE POWER OF GOD.
THE GOAL OF KAMUHABURI
IS NOT TO GATHER GOD'S INHERITANCES.

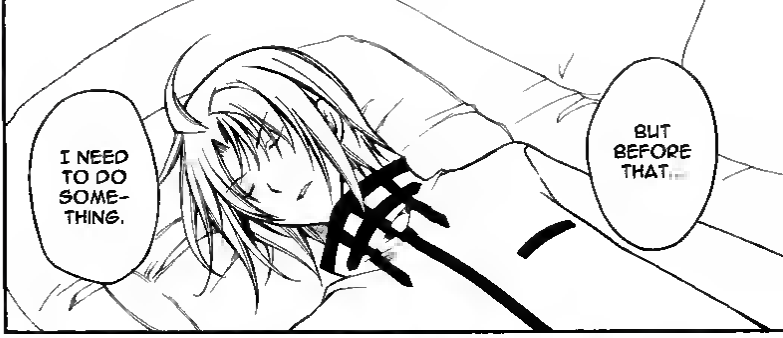
AND ALSO,
TO PREVENT THOSE LIKE YOU WHO HAVE NO "RIGHT" TO OBTAIN THE POWER OF GOD.

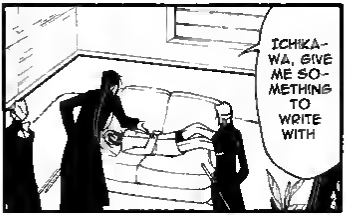

PREPARE TO RE-MOVE THE SPELLS
IT'S TO GUARD THEM... AS WELL AS
TO DESTROY THOSE THAT ARE TOO POWERFUL.

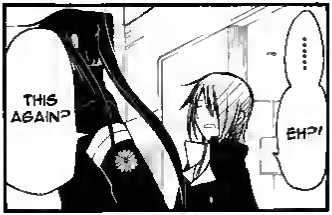
REMEM-BER IT UNTIL YOUR DYING BREATH
THAT IS "KAMUHA-BURI".

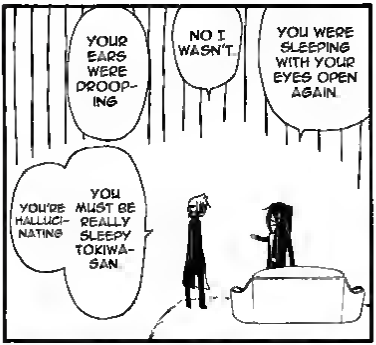
TO OVERSEE THE HOLY WAR AND THE POWER OF GOD
IN THIS GODLESS WORLD UNTIL THE NEXT GOD HAS BEEN DECIDED

WE KNOW WHERE THE GRAIL IS.
AND SINCE THE PRESIDENT DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE A KEY, I HAVE NO MORE BUSINESS WITH HIM.
TAKE HIM AWAY
PFF
TOKIWA-SAN,
ICHIKAWA IS ASKING IF IT'S OKAY TO LEAVE THE GOO CANDIDATE ALONE FOR NOW
HE'S THE GOD CANDIDATE WHO DECIPHERED THE BOOK OF PROPHECY.
IT'LL BE MUCH EASIER FOR US TO MANAGE THIS SITUATION IF WE GET HIM TO WORK FOR US.
IMBECILE
AS IF WE COULD
KEEP HIM UNDER STRICT WATCH UNTIL WE LEAVE ARCANA.
AND MAKE HE DOESN'T WAKE UP.
JUST STAND THERE AND WATCH HIM!
AHH.


I NEED TO DO SOMETHING.
BUT BEFORE THAT...


ICHIKAWA, GIVE ME SOMETHING TO WRITE WITH


.....
EH?!
THIS AGAIN?


YOUR EARS WERE DROOPING
NO I WASN'T
YOU WERE SLEEPING WITH YOUR EYES OPEN AGAIN
YOU'RE HALLUCINATING
YOU MUST BE REALLY SLEEPY TOKIWA-SAN

ICHIKAWA.
ぷにっ

FINE THEN
JUST GIVE ME SOMETHING TO WRITE WITH
HERE

ピ
ピ
OH... MY BRUSH IS LIVELY TODAY.
I'VE WROUGHT A MASTERPIECE IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF.
REALLY? IT FEELS A LITTLE UNORIGI-NAL.
THEN I'LL ADD EYE-BROWS.
HAA...
I'M GOING TO GO OPEN THE VAULT NOW.
NO, I THINK IT'D BE BETTER IF YOU..
OH,
AND TOKIWA-SAN, PLEASE KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON THOSE ARCANA PEOPLE.
THOSE GUYS SEEM TO BE PRETTY REBELL-IOUS.
KINDA.

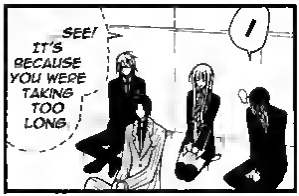
ガチャ
!
—THEY HAVE FOUND THE GRAIL VAULT
IT ALSO SEEMS THEY'VE ALREADY TAKEN THE OTHER INHERITANCES
YOUR EXCELLENCY!
UNBELIEVABLE... TO THINK ARCANA WOULD BE BROUGHT DOWN SO EASILY
IT'S NOT THAT THEY DID, BUT RATHER THAT THEY COULD THAT'S UNUSUAL
THOSE GUYS... THEY MUST HAVE THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED ARCANA BEFORE ATTACKING.
THEY EVEN HAD A GENERAL IDEA OF WHERE THE GRAIL MIGHT BE
IT'S PROBABLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY GET IT
BUT IT SHOULD TAKE THEM FIVE HOURS TO OPEN THE VAULT
IF WE ATTACK THEM...
ATTACKING THEM FROM OUR CURRENT POSITION WOULD BE RATHER DIFFICULT

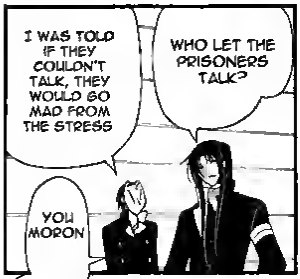
TO MANAGE THE POWER OF GOD AND THE HOLY WAR IT SEEMS... LAUGHABLE.
WHAT IS THE ENEMY'S OBJECTIVE?
THEY'RE LETTING US LIVE FOR NOW
BUT ONCE THE GRAIL IS IN THEIR HANDS, WE WILL PROBABLY BE KILLED.
HEY.
...
THERE ARE ONLY THREE OF THOSE GOONS IN THIS ROOM RIGHT NOW.
NEITHER THAT TOKIWA GUY NOR THE TWO OTHER UNMASKED ONES ARE HERE
OKAY.
WHEN WE SEE AN O[illegible]NING...
... IF WE LET EVEN ONE OF THEM GET AWAY, THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO TSUZUKI.
THIS COULD BE A CHANCE, RIGHT?
IT'LL BE DANGEROUS SINCE THEY HAVE GUNS, BUT I THINK WE CAN TAKE THEM.

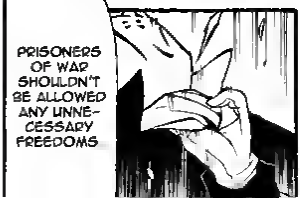
EVEN IF THEY DON'T KILL TSUZUKI, THEY WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM KILLING MY EMPLOYEES WHO ARE ALSO HELO HERE.
THAT WOULD BE A BIT TROUBLE-SOME.

THEY WON'T KILL HIM.
THEY WANT THE INFOR-MATION FROM THE BOOK OF PROPHECY THAT THE PUREBLOOD HAS.

ARE WE...

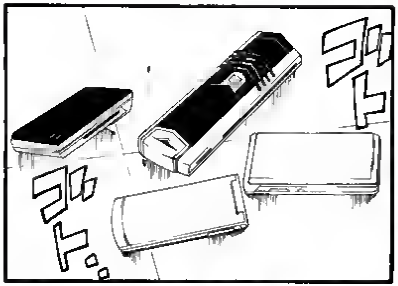

SEE! IT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE TAKING TOO LONG.


I WAS TOLD IF THEY COULDN'T TALK, THEY WOULD GO MAD FROM THE STRESS
WHO LET THE PRISONERS TALK?
YOU MORON


PRISONERS OF WAR SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED ANY UNNE-CESSARY FREEDOMS

HAVING A SECRET MEETING
PRISON-ERS?

YOU THREE
WHEN WE GET BACK, YOU WILL GET A FIVE HOUR LECTURE
UGH..
MY APOLOGIES SIR
GEEZ..
It just got harder to escape.
If only there was some way to break through..
YAWN
TSK!
YOU GUYS DIDN'T TAKE AWAY HER CELL PHONE?
REJOICE, TODAY'S LECTURE WILL LAST UNTIL DAWN
BEEP!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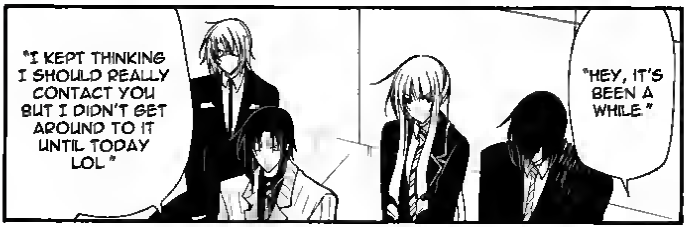
TAKE OUT YOUR PHONES
ALL FOUR OF YOU
……

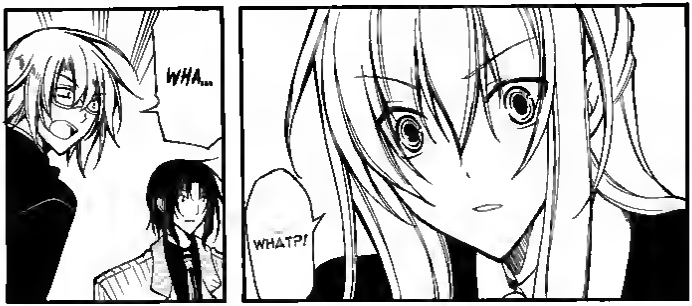
HEH
THIS IS A SURPRISINGLY POINTLESS MESSAGE

THIS IS THE TEXT YOU JUST RECEIVED


"I KEPT THINKING I SHOULD REALLY CONTACT YOU BUT I DIDN'T GET AROUND TO IT UNTIL TODAY LOL"
"HEY, IT'S BEEN A WHILE."

"IF YOU HAD ANY PLANS FOR TONIGHT."
"I JUST WANTED TO ASK YOU"

"-HINATA"


WHA...
WHAT?!

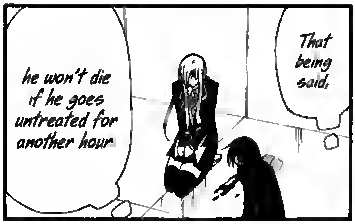
But...
Hinata... is alive?
HE MUST HAVE JUST COME TO.
HE'S PROBABLY STILL WRAPPED IN BANDAGES.
WELL... THAT ONE DID WELL TO GET AWAY IN THAT CONDITION.

In this situation-
THAT MIGHT BE IMPOSS-IBLE.
NO.
THEN... WE CAN HAVE HIM HELP US OUT OF HERE!
TELL HIM-
AH... THAT'S RIGHT. WE REALLY SCREWED HIM OVER BEFORE.
HE WON'T COME TO HELP ARCANA
AND HE'S HORRIBLY WOUNDED ANYWAY...
IT'S NOT THAT
I HAVE NO WAY OF EVEN ASKING HIM FOR HELP.
IT'S JUST THAT THEY TOOK ALL OF OUR PHONES.
UHH
ポケ
ポケ

!!

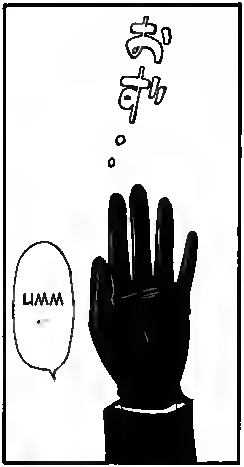
THIS GUY SHOT SEVERAL OF MY MEN.
IS THAT A JOKE?

CAN YOU AT LEAST STOP THE BLEEDING?
THE WOUND IN HIS ARM SEEMS REALLY SERIOUS


That being said,
he won't die if he goes untreated for another hour

...But if we control Tsuzuki, then it might be best to keep Hanamura alive as well

CO-COULD I GO TO THE BATH-ROOM?
I'M AT MY LIMIT
OH COME ON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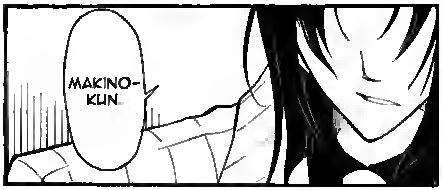
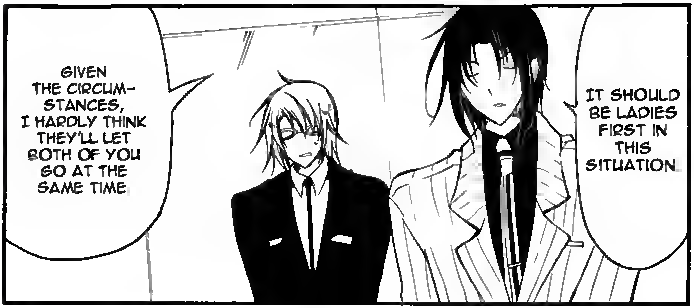
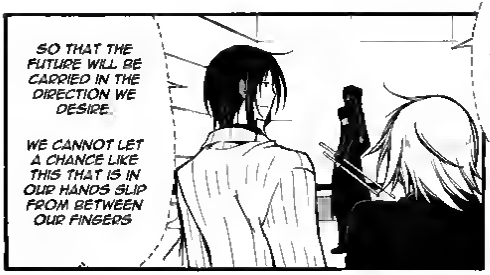

MAKINO-KUN


IT SHOULD BE LADIES FIRST IN THIS SITUATION
GIVEN THE CIRCUM-STANCES, I HARDLY THINK THEY'LL LET BOTH OF YOU GO AT THE SAME TIME

THOU SHOULDST DEFER TO THE DAMSEL.
BUT I'M THE ONE WHO HAS TO GO BADLY.
SHUT UP!
I HAVE FEMININE NEEDS!
OH MY— I'M GLAD YOU'RE SUCH A GENTLEMAN
……
OKAY OKAY, BUT ONLY ONE AT A TIME.
AND YOU'LL BE WATCH-ED.
キュッ

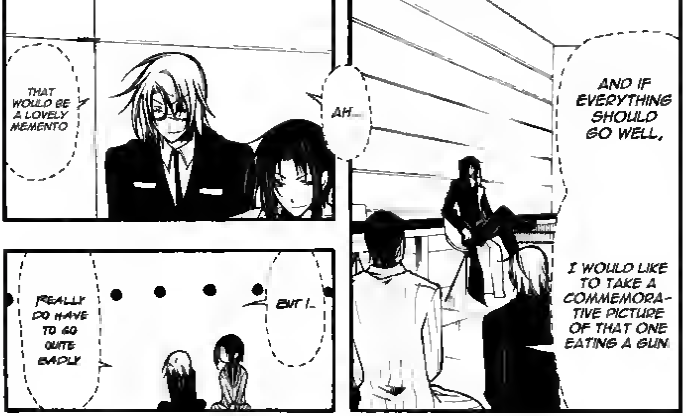

SO THAT THE FUTURE WILL BE CARRIED IN THE DIRECTION WE DESIRE.
WE CANNOT LET A CHANCE LIKE THIS THAT IS IN OUR HANDS SLIP FROM BETWEEN OUR FINGERS

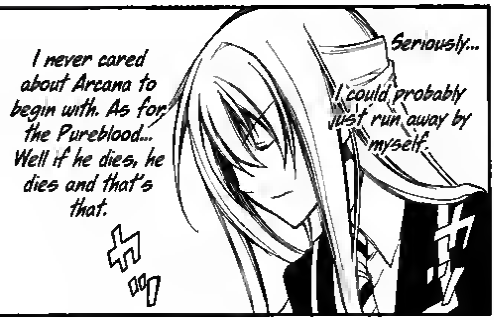
THIS IS...
URGH...

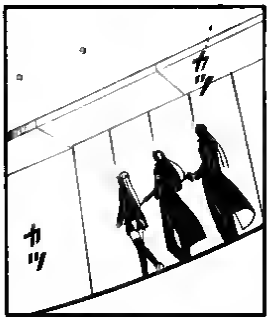
I'M ENJOYING THIS A LITTLE
IT MIGHT NOT BE APPRO-PRIATE IN THIS SITUATION, BUT.

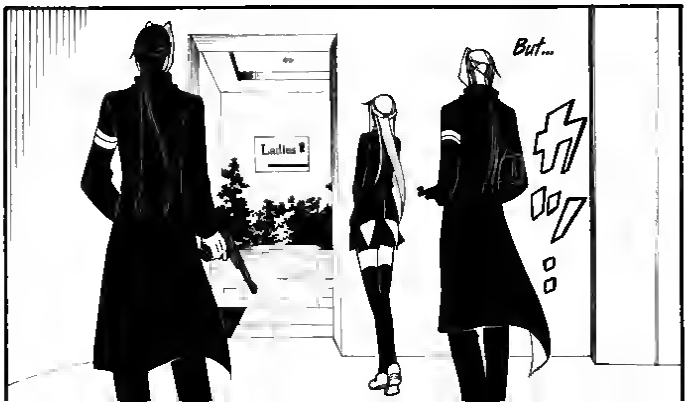
STUMBLING ON THE PATH AS WE WALK ON IT
CAN BE QUITE EXCITING.

YOUR EXCEL-LENCY...?


AND IF EVERYTHING SHOULD GO WELL,
I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A COMMEMORATIVE PICTURE OF THAT ONE EATING A GUN.
AH...
THAT WOULD BE A LOVELY MEMENTO
BUT I...
REALLY DO HAVE TO GO QUITE BADLY

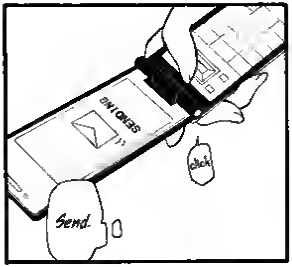

I never cared about Arcana to begin with. As for the Pureblood... Well if he dies, he dies and that's that.
Seriously...
I could probably just run away by myself.



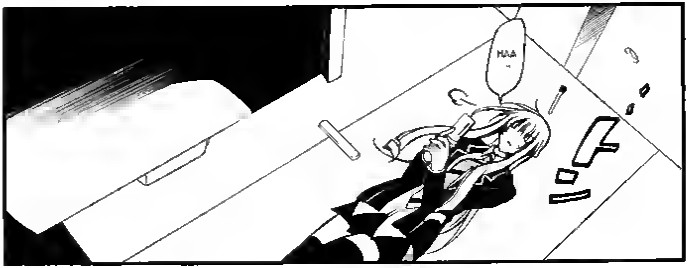

Ladies
But...

NOW GET IN..
?
OF COURSE WE ARE WE HAVE TO KEEP AN EYE ON YOU.
YOU AREN'T GOING TO FOLLOW ME IN ARE YOU?
HOLD IT.
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE GOING TO GO INTO THE STALL SO CALM DOW-
THIS IS THE BOUNDARY OF COMMON DECENCY THAT NO MAN... NO, NO PERSON SHOULD CROSS.
YOU GUYS ARE THE WORST.
DAMN...

FINE...
YOU CAN'T ENTER AS PEOPLE, BUT IF YOU ARE ANIMALS, THEN THERE'S NO PROBLEMS.
COME ON...
ANIMALS DON'T SPEAK LIKE PEOPLE.
LET ME HEAR YOU SQUEAL LIKE...
PIGS!
ヒィ
ヒィ
ヒィ


Send.
click

"Tsuzuki, Izumi, everyone has been captured. Things are pretty bad here. Could you lend a hand?"
"Arcana is under control of some criminals."

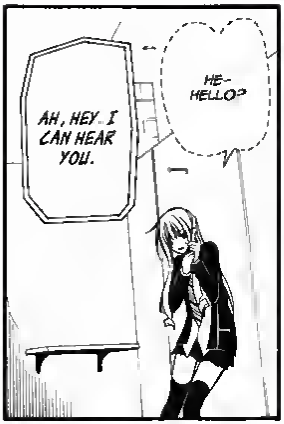

Hiii

So this is good...
... right?

... So he's alive.

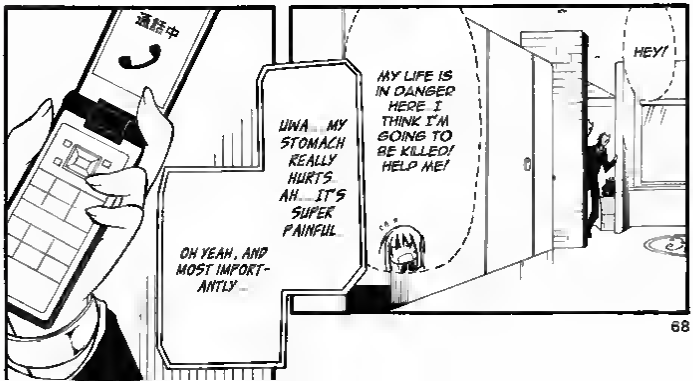
I felt pretty guilty about him dying in my place.

bzz bzz bzz
!!!
!
A reply?
It would have been better if he had died.
No...
Now that I think of it...
TO hanallis
Sub Sorry, can't
Arcana
Sub sorry, can't
You know I stabbed Arcana in the back a while ago? I don't really want to get involved if I can help it...
IF YOU COME TO SAVE ME NOW, YOU'LL GET TO LOOK COOL YOU KNOW!!!
COME ON!
With all of your combined wisdom and courage you guys will manage something lol"
"Sorry. Good luck though!"
you...

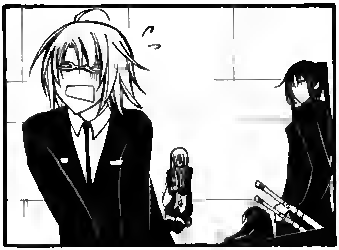

HE-HELLO?
AH, HEY. I CAN HEAR YOU.

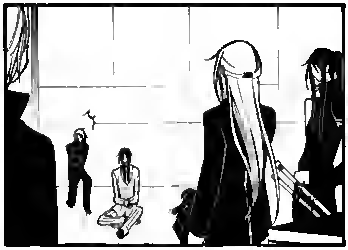
OY! WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO!?
!
.....
I'M JUST SHOUTING TO MYSELF BECAUSE THE HANDCUFFS ARE GETTING IN THE WAY!

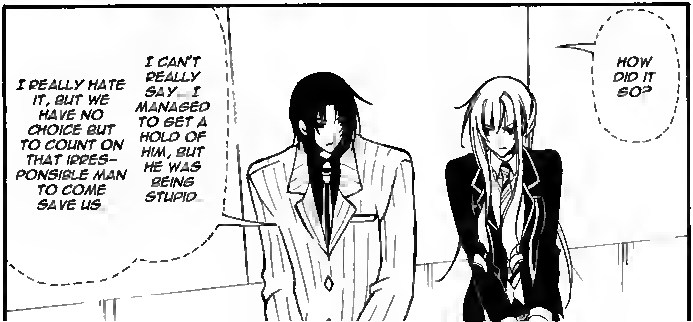
I UNDER-STAND BUT PLEASE?
AH! OUCH OUCH OUCH! IT HURTS!
WELL... HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS?
MY WOUNDS FROM BEFORE HAVEN'T EXACTLY HEALED, YOU KNOW?


通話中
UWA... MY STOMACH REALLY HURTS. AH... IT'S SUPER PAINFUL.
OH YEAH, AND MOST IMPORT-ANTLY...
MY LIFE IS IN DANGER HERE. I THINK I'M GOING TO BE KILLED! HELP ME!
HEY!

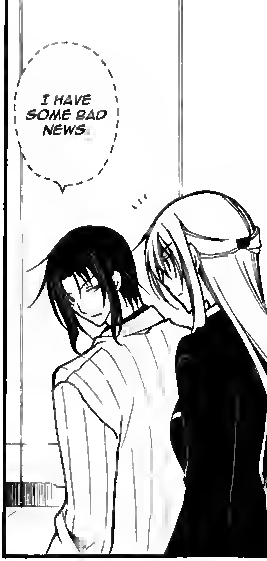
IF YOU DON'T GET OVER HERE RIGHT NOW, I WILL KILL YOU, DUMBASS.
THERE'S A 2-HOUR COMEDY SPECIAL ON TV TONIGHT AT SEVEN.
COULD YOU RECORD IT FOR ME?

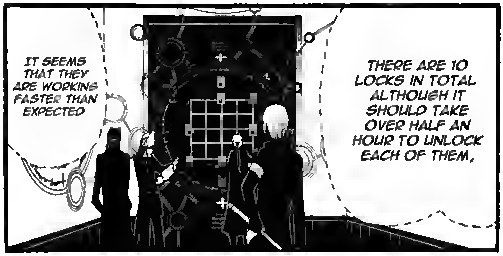


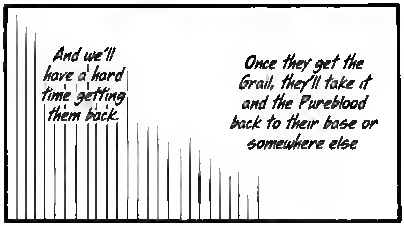



I REALLY HATE IT, BUT WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO COUNT ON THAT IRRESPONSIBLE MAN TO COME SAVE US.
I CAN'T REALLY SAY... I MANAGED TO GET A HOLD OF HIM, BUT HE WAS BEING STUPID.
HOW DID IT GO?

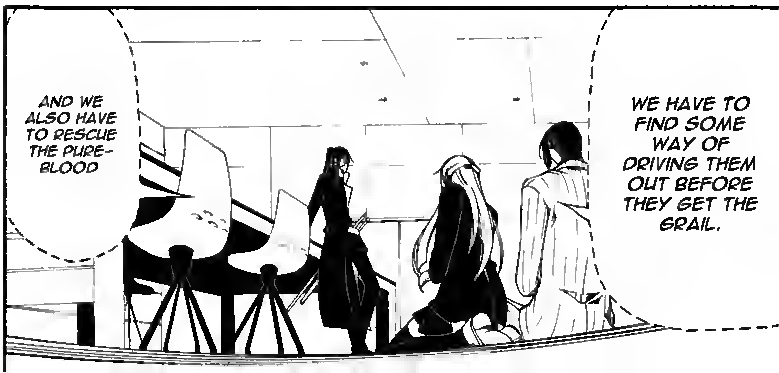
AND IT SEEMS LIKE THEY HAVE OPENED ONE OF THE LOCKS
TOKIWA HAS BEEN GIVING ORDERS TO HIS MEN

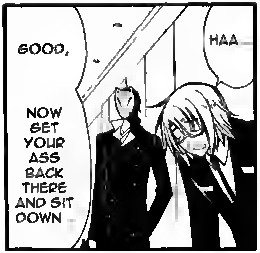

I HAVE SOME BAD NEWS

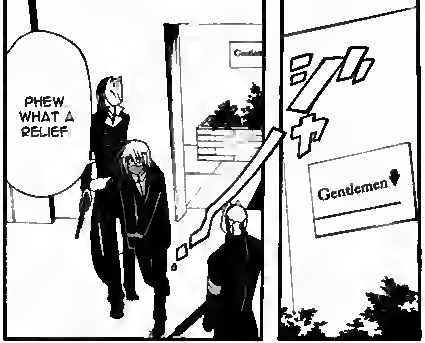

IT SEEMS THAT THEY ARE WORKING FASTER THAN EXPECTED
THERE ARE 10 LOCKS IN TOTAL ALTHOUGH IT SHOULD TAKE OVER HALF AN HOUR TO UNLOCK EACH OF THEM.


And we'll have a hard time getting them back.
Once they get the Grail, they'll take it and the Pureblood back to their base or somewhere else

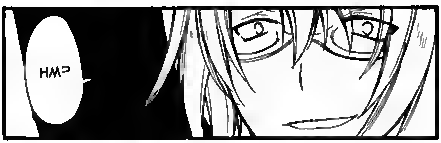
DAMN
WE CAN'T KEEP THIS UP.


AND WE ALSO HAVE TO RESCUE THE PURE-BLOOD
WE HAVE TO FIND SOME WAY OF DRIVING THEM OUT BEFORE THEY GET THE GRAIL.


HAA
GOOD.
NOW GET YOUR ASS BACK THERE AND SIT DOWN

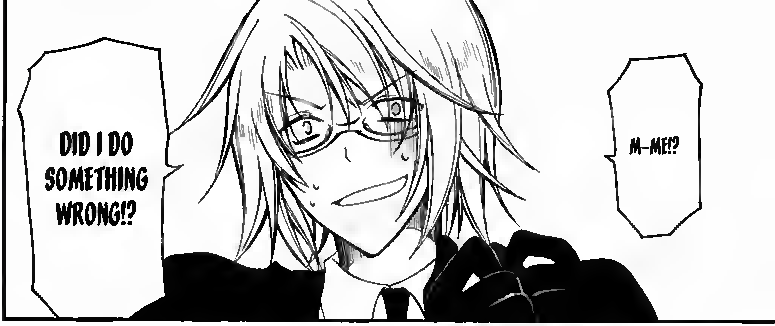

PHEW WHAT A RELIEF
Gentlemen

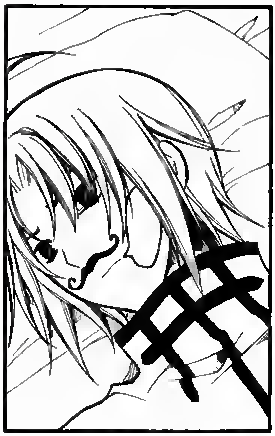
OHH
BUT MY ASS HURTS

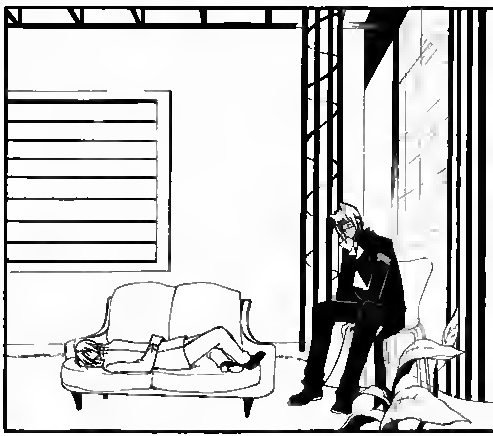

HM?

...YOU!
WHAT DID YOU DO!?
EH!?

HUH?
WHERE IS THE OTHER ONE?


M-ME!?
DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG!?





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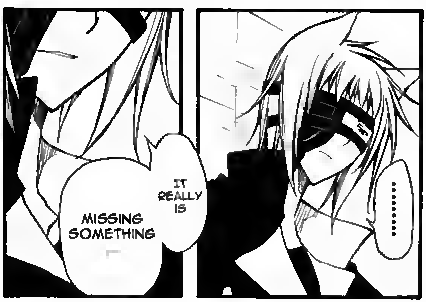
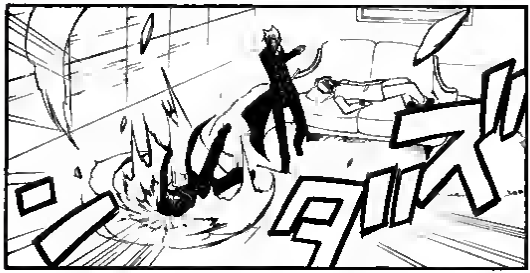

IT REALLY IS MISSING SOMETHING
.....

WE'RE HAVING DIFFICULTY REGAINING CONTROL. COULD YOU HEAD DOWN THERE?
THERE'S SOME TROUBLE OUT THERE!
CAP-TAIN!
.....
UNDER-STOOD I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO WATCH OVER THIS GUY
MAN
WHAT A FACE THEY GAVE YOU.
COUGH
RIGHT.

IT TAKES AWAY WHAT LITTLE DIGNITY YOU HAD TO BEGIN WITH.

NOW THEN.
I'LL HAVE TO WAKE YOU UP OR WE WON'T BE ABLE TO GO ANYWHERE
IF YOU WANT TO COME WITH ME, YOU'LL HAVE TO USE YOUR OWN LEGS
OI WAKE UP
IT'S MORNING
OIIII!
ARE YOU LISTENING? HEY!
HUH?
HE'S NOT WAKING UP AT ALL! SHIT!
I'M TELLING YOU TO WAKE UP! KING OF MORONS!!
OI! WAKE UP!!
OIIIII!
OIIIIII!

OI.



WHA-

I DON'T THINK I'VE HEARD YOUR VOICE BEFORE...

OW...

WHO ARE YOU?
WHOA.
MAN... MY LIFE REALLY ISN'T GOING WELL.
THIS IS WHY I DIDN'T WANT TO COME HERE.

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BLOODY CROSS

by YONEYAMA Shiwo

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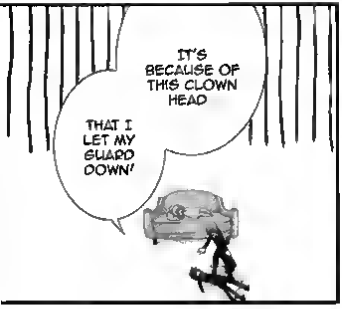
WHOA, MAN.. MY LIFE REALLY ISN'T GOING WELL.
THIS IS WHY I DIDN'T WANT TO COME HERE.


IT'S BECAUSE OF THIS CLOWN HEAD
THAT I LET MY GUARD DOWN!

STILL.

a vampire curse

MAKIN IZUMI

TOKIWA
CRUSADE
a pure-hearted
god candid
CHAPTER 26: THAT WHICH IS SOUGHT

BLOODY CROSS

WHAT'S HAPPENING?
A PROBLEM, CAPTAIN?
THIS GUY IMPERSONATED ONE OF US.
ALERT TOKIWA IMMEDIATELY!
YES SIR!
I can't let them report me.
TSS...
I came here incognito!
IMMOBILIZATION!!
!?
WHAT?

Arcana...
Of Repul-sion!
AGH... MY WOUND HAS REOPENED
OUCH, MY STOM-ACH!
EVEN IN THIS SHAPE, I CAN STILL CAST SPELLS!
AREN'T WELL... YOU UNDER-ESTIMAT-ING ME?
ALERT!
THERE'S AN INTRUDER AMONG US!
I DIDN'T SEE THAT ONE.
DAMN IT.
IF ONLY THE PURE-BLOOD WOULD WAKE UP!

WE COULD SNEAK OUT...
YOU MUST NOT VALUE YOUR LIFE, IF YOU DARED TO DRESS UP AS ONE OF US
MCH!
ガ
ガ
YOU WON'T RECOGNIZE YOURSELF AFTER I'M DONE WITH YOU.
HEY... WHY DIDN'T MY ATTACK WORK ON YOU?
He took a wall like it was nothing.
HUH HUH, I SEE...
MISTER IS A TOUGH ONE!
WELL...
IN THAT CASE...

I'M OUT!

TSS...

I WANT NO PART...
IN THIS FIGHT

THAT I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING!
BUT,
I'M TELLING YOU...

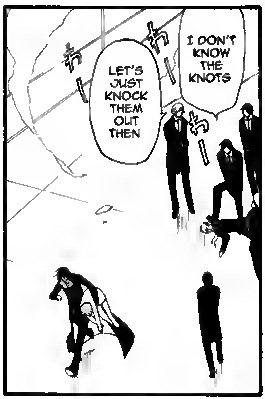
HEY?
HINA-TA

AHH!
IT'S DIFFICULT RUNNING WITH THIS DEAD WEIGHT!
SORRY, MAYBE ANOTHER TIME!
COME BACK AND SAVE ME!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
Arcana's agents...
!
LOOK, IT'S HIM!
IT'S THE INTRUDER!
ARGH!
The guy who escaped me earlier
SEIZE HIM!
BUT DON'T HARM THE GOD CANDI-DATE!

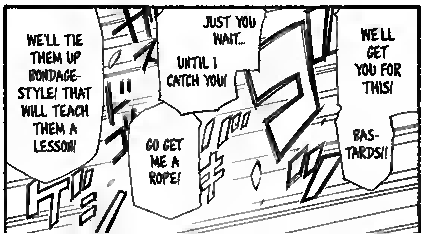
I CAN'T CATCH A BREAK... Defensive Spell!!!
REFLECT!!

!!
HAAH!

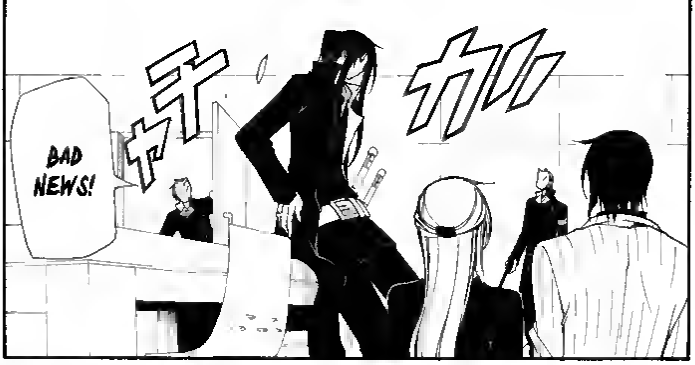
WHAT?


I DON'T KNOW THE KNOTS
LET'S JUST KNOCK THEM OUT THEN

WH...

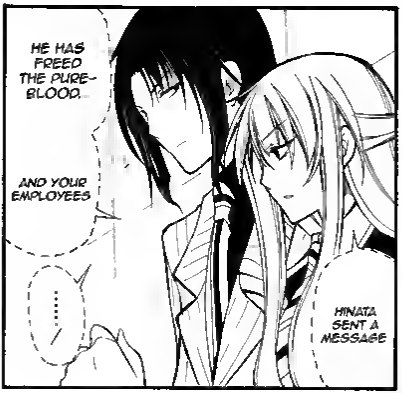

WE'LL TIE THEM UP BONDAGE-STYLE! THAT WILL TEACH THEM A LESSON!
JUST YOU WAIT... UNTIL I CATCH YOU!
WE'LL GET YOU FOR THIS!
BAS-TARDS!!
GO GET ME A ROPE!

Phew...
LOCKER ROOM
YOU REALLY ARE A BURDEN, DO YOU KNOW THAT?!
SINCE YOU WON'T WAKE UP, YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO STAY IN THIS LOCKER!
I'LL HIDE HIM HERE FOR THE MEANTIME
カチ
カチ
MAKE SURE YOU DON'T GET NOTICED!


BAD NEWS!

WELL...
...AND THEN.

PFF
GIVE ME THE DETAILS OUTSIDE


HE HAS FREED THE PURE-BLOOD.
AND YOUR EMPLOYEES
.....
HINATA SENT A MESSAGE

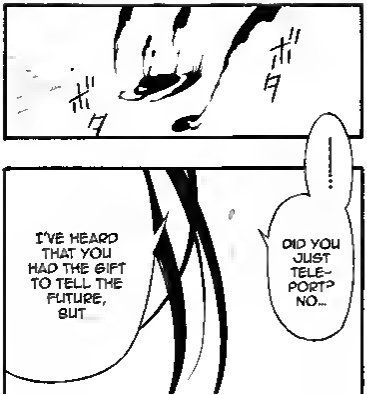
...!

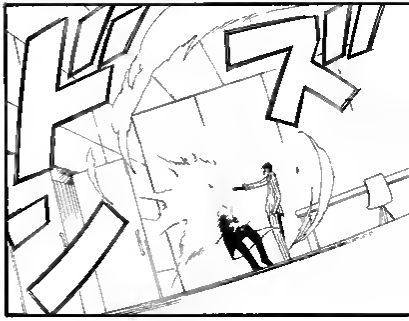
GO HELP THEM!
I CAN DEAL WITH THEM ALONE
SIGH YES SIGH
ANYWAY, AS LONG AS TOKIWA IS HERE, WE CAN'T LEAVE THIS ROOM.
MOREOVER, WE WILL HAVE TO DRAG HANAMARU, WHO IS STILL UNCONSCIOUS
THAT JUST LEAVES THE PROBLEM OF THE GRAIL.
HOW LONG UNTIL THEY OPEN THE VAULT?
WELL...
I OWE HIM ONE!
WOULD YOU...
GIVE ME A HAND?
NO.
WHILE YOU GO TO YOUR OFFICE TO PROTECT THE GRAIL?
DO YOU NEED ME TO DISTRACT TOKIWA..

I'LL DEAL WITH TOKIWA...
WHILE YOU GET THE GRAIL!
ARE YOU SURE?
FINE...
ON THE COUNT OF THREE
1
2
3

!
WH...
WAS IT WISE TO ENTRUST THE PROTECTION OF THE GRAIL TO SOMEONE ELSE?
YOU HAVE DISPATCHED ALL YOUR MEN
WHY DON'T YOU AND I DUEL?
WHAT DO YOU THINK IS GOING TO HAPPEN?
A SMALL, WORTHLESS CEO WHO DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO FIGHT WISHES TO FACE ME?
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!
PFF
I'D REALLY LIKE TO HAVE A SAY IN THIS!
OF COURSE, I WOULD PREFER TO DO THIS MYSELF. YOU'VE MADE A COMPLETE MESS OUT OF MY ORGANIZATION

WH...
!
HOW DID YOU DO THAT?!


ボタ
ボタ
!
DID YOU JUST TELE-PORT? NO...
I'VE HEARD THAT YOU HAD THE GIFT TO TELL THE FUTURE, BUT


ドズ

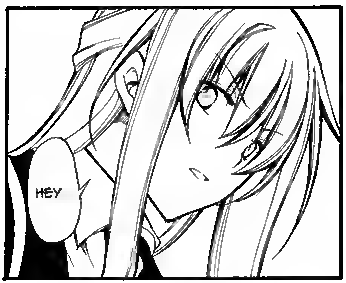
I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE ALSO ABLE TO STOP TIME!

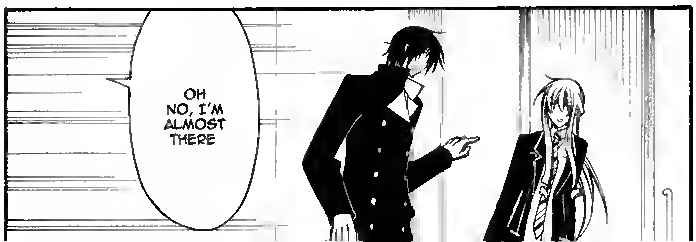
ばん

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Is the most precious relic that Arcana owns!
The Grail of Creation...

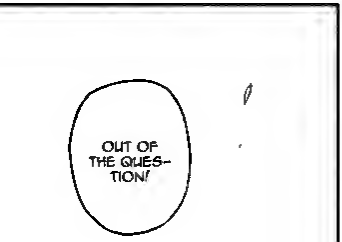
DON'T TELL ME


HEY


OH NO, I'M ALMOST THERE

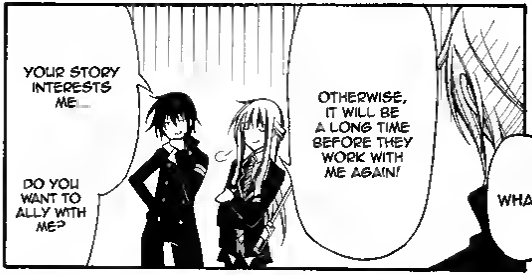
TUSKIMIYA AND HINATA
THE TWO VULTURES!
NEITHER OF YOU ARE PART OF ARCANA
SO WHAT DOES IT MATTER TO YOU IF WE TAKE THEIR RELICS?
IT'S TRUE
THIS DOESN'T CONCERN US
WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO NOT GET IN MY WAY?

I DON'T SEE WHY I WOULD PROTECT THE GRAIL JUST BECAUSE THE PUREBLOOD HAS SIDED WITH IZUMI!
AND AS FOR ME, I'M NOT EVEN GETTING PAID FOR THIS JOB
BESIDES, I'M NOT EVEN ON GOOD TERMS WITH THEM


OUT OF THE QUES-TION!

AND LET US TAKE THE RELIC
NOW KINDLY STEP ASIDE
WELL THEN, YOU'RE NOT AS DUMB AS I THOUGHT

FOR YOUR INFOR-MATION,
It will be me...
who will seize the Grail!


YOUR STORY INTERESTS ME...
DO YOU WANT TO ALLY WITH ME?
OTHERWISE, IT WILL BE A LONG TIME BEFORE THEY WORK WITH ME AGAIN!

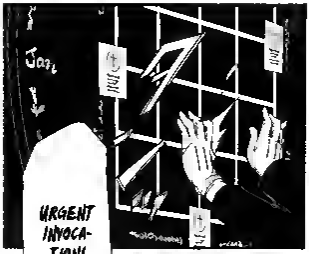
WHAT?
.....

BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE GENERAL CHAOS TO STEAL RELICS!
YOU CAME TO HELP US
I CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH YOU

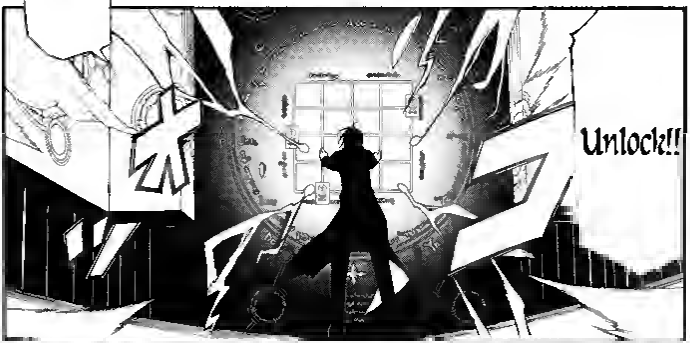
HA HA HA... YOU WRONGLY SUSPECT ME!
ADMIT IT!
ALL I'M SAYING IS THAT RIGHT NOW, BOTH OF US... HAVE THE SAME OPPONENT!
YOU'RE RIGHT... LET'S TEAM UP...
UNTIL WE HAVE THE GRAIL
WE CAN FIGURE THINGS OUT AFTER.
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN... THE GREEDY ALWAYS ALLOW THEM-SELVES TO BE RULED BY THEIR DESIRES
SORRY IT SEEMS I'VE MIS-JUDGED YOU
I SHOULDN'T HAVE WASTED MY BREATH

Whee!...
of Destruction!
SERIOUSLY? DO YOU REALLY THINK A SPELL OF THIS LEVEL..
CAN OVERCOME AN OPPONENT ARMED WITH A DIVINE SWORD?
TOO EASY
THIS IS...
ARGH!
THAT CAN'T BE TRUE!
YOU WHO FLOW IN MY VEINS

HMM.
WHAT?!
MY TURN
TSS...
EXCUSE ME?!
Since my spells are ineffective
I'M LEAVING! DEAL WITH HIM YOURSELF!


Jail
Jail
URGENT INVOCATION!

WH...
IMMOBILIZATION!!
IMMOBILIZATION!!
IMMOBILIZATION!!
HEY, BAND OF LOSERS!
OUT OF THE WAY!


Unlock!!

TSSS...
OUR PRIORITY IS THE GRAIL!

Beh!

ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
HEY!
SHUT UP AND TRY TO RESTRAIN HIM...
WHILE I OPEN THE VAULT!

ギィ
イ
イ
イ

Well, All the locks have been broken..
Open sesame!

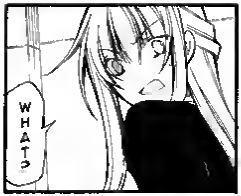
ギィ

ARE YOU DONE?!

WHAT?

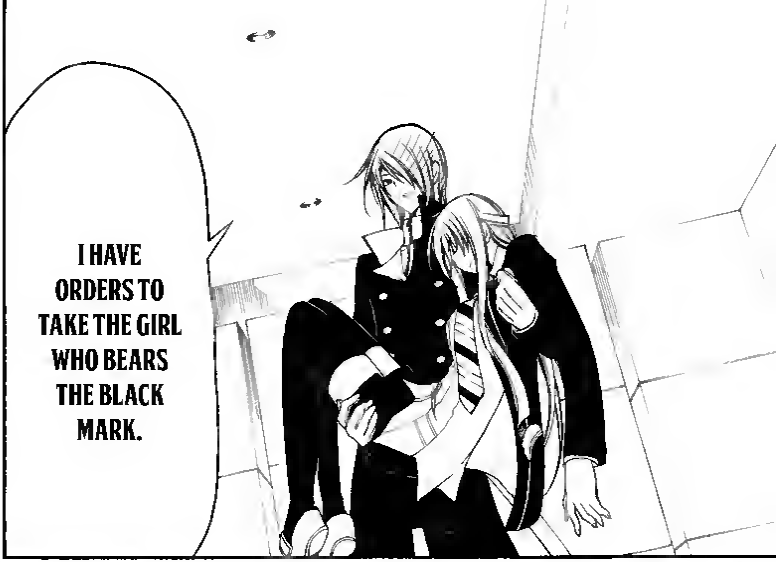
HAH HAH YOU MUST BE JOKING!
TFF..
.....
HE PLAYED ME FOR A FOOL TO THINK THAT I ALMOST BELIEVED HE WAS HONEST

WH...


WHAT?

THERE'S NOTHING INSIDE!

IT WAS A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY!!
THAT BASTARD!
DAMN IT!!
The vault was a decoy
And it was probably the only good hiding spot in the whole building
That gets on my nerves..
Perhaps the sacred object is in one of the other branches of Arcana, or else..
He plays the gentle man but that's bullshit
P&P
WELL, WHATEVER, I HAVE NO REGRETS I DID MY BEST
I HOPE TOKIWA DOESN'T HOLD ANYTHING AGAINST ME
I know! I am going to curse his office with my blood so that he becomes bald
TSUKIMIYA?
SHE IS ALSO...
ONE OF OUR TARGETS!

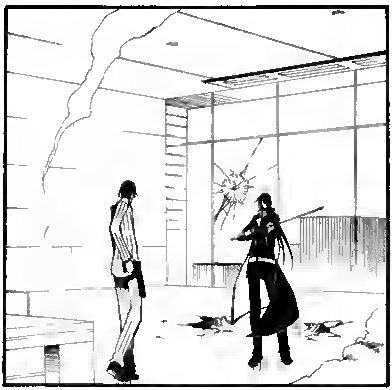

I HAVE ORDERS TO TAKE THE GIRL WHO BEARS THE BLACK MARK.

WHAT?

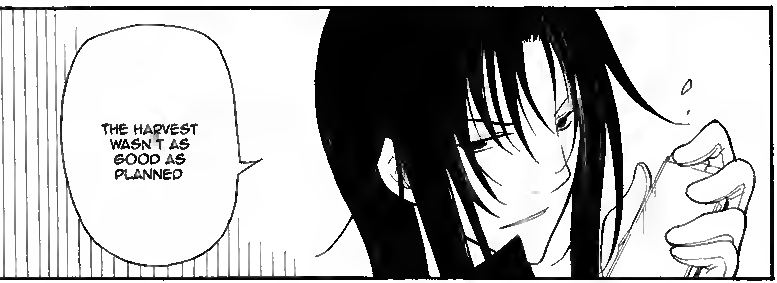
GOOD BYE.

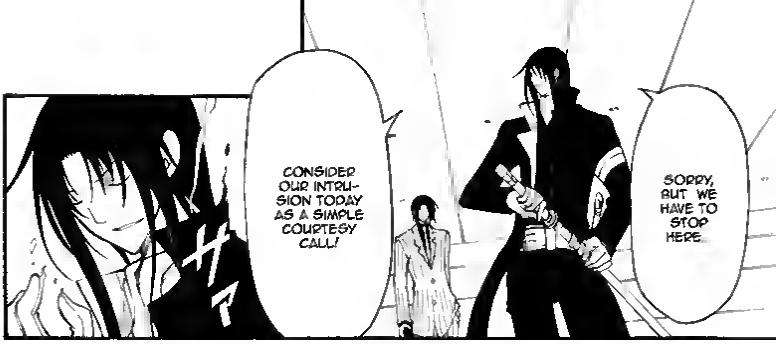
ER...
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO REACT, IN THIS CASE?

PLL...

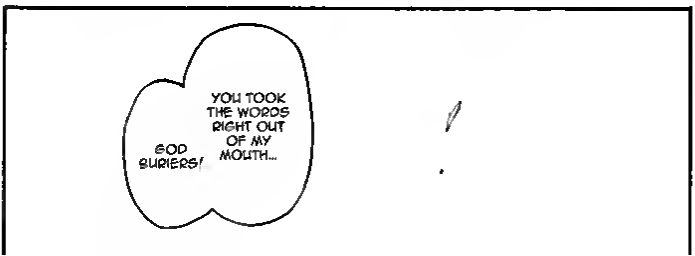


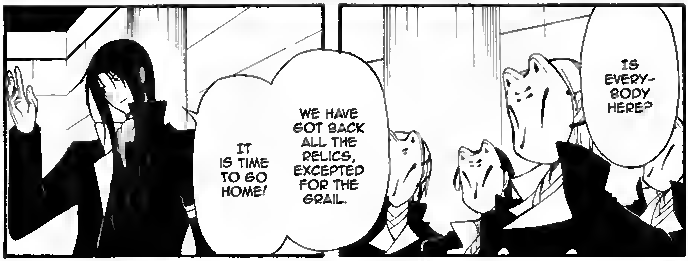
UNDER-STOOD.
HELLO IKU SAKA?
PI


THE HARVEST WASN'T AS GOOD AS PLANNED


CONSIDER OUR INTRUSION TODAY AS A SIMPLE COURTESY CALL!
SORRY, BUT WE HAVE TO STOP HERE.

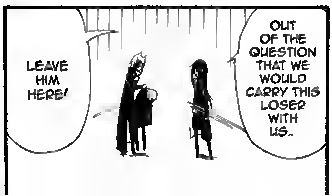
YOU'VE MANAGED TO SURVIVE THIS TIME!

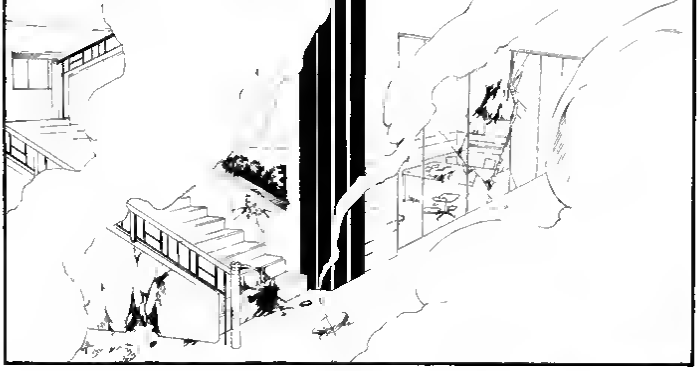

YOU TOOK THE WORDS RIGHT OUT OF MY MOUTH...
GOD BURIERS!


IS EVERY-BODY HERE?
WE HAVE GOT BACK ALL THE RELICS, EXCEPTED FOR THE GRAIL.
IT IS TIME TO GO HOME!

I HAVE CAUGHT MAKINO.
TOKIWA
I THOUGHT HE COULD BE USEFUL TO US AS A HOSTAGE!

Sniff... My best catch.

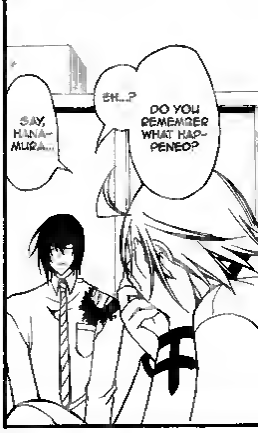

OUT OF THE QUESTION THAT WE WOULD CARRY THIS LOSER WITH US..
LEAVE HIM HERE!

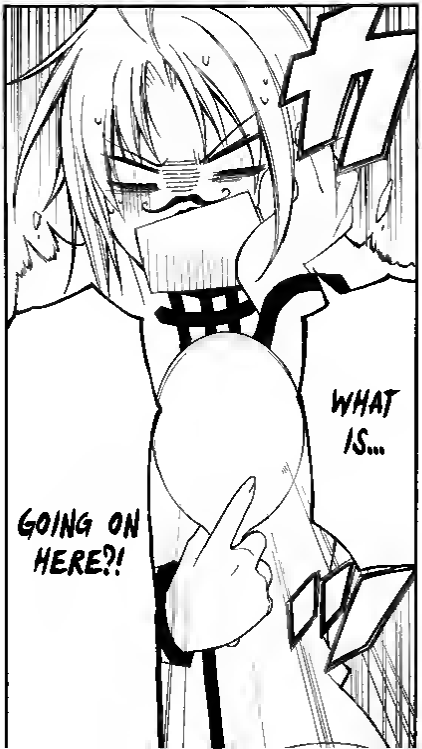


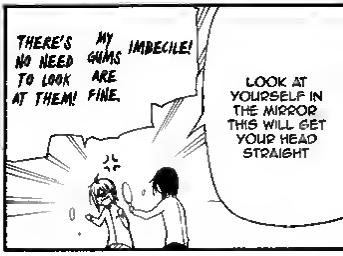
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU TO WAKE UP FOR HOURS!
HMM
IT'S OVER

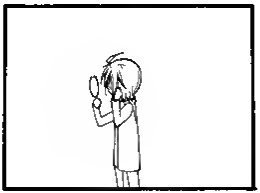
HA.
IT'S ABOUT TIME!

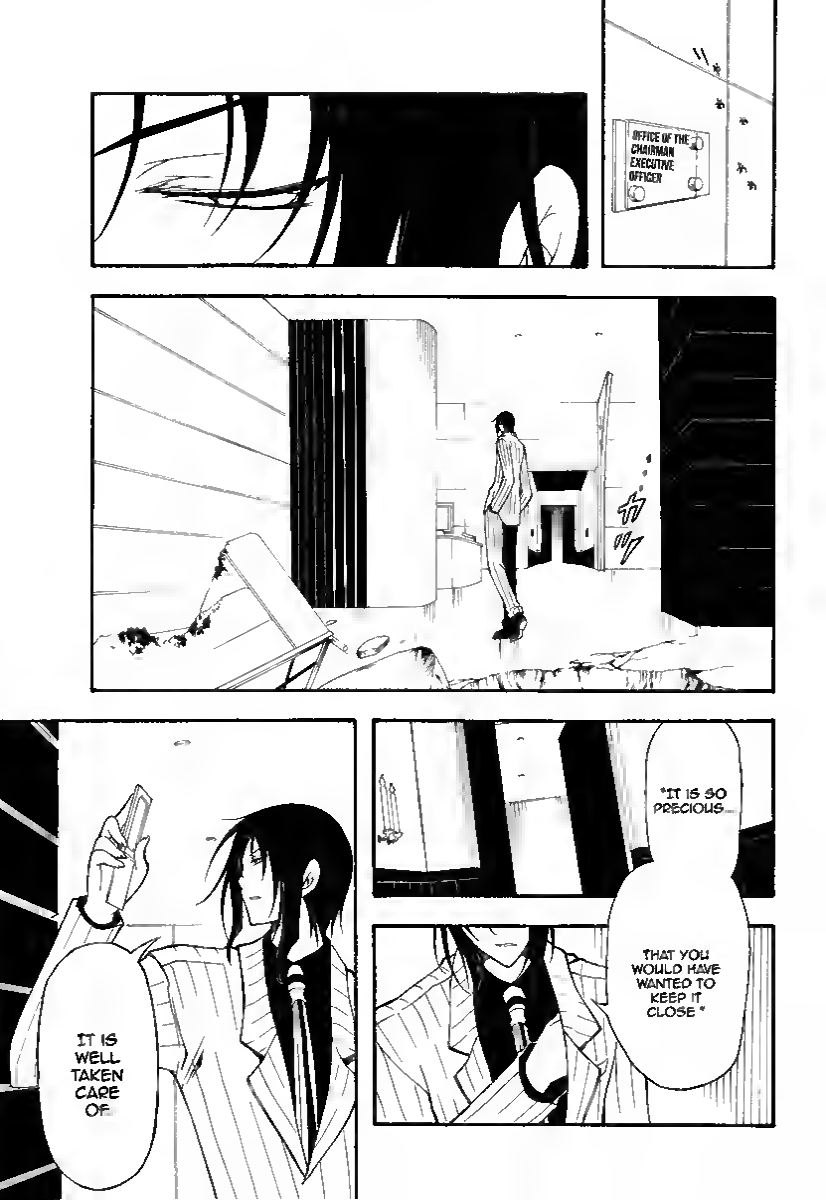
NOW, HOW AM I GOING TO MANAGE PLAYING BASKETBALL WITH THE OTHERS?
THE SMALL MAP HIDDEN WITHIN MY GUMS MUST BE LAUGHING RIGHT NOW...
I THINK HE HIT HIS HEAD HARDER THAN I THOUGHT.


SAY, HANAMURA...
EH...?
DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED?


WHAT IS...
GOING ON HERE?!


THERE'S NO NEED TO LOOK AT THEM!
MY GUMS ARE FINE.
IMBECILE!
LOOK AT YOURSELF IN THE MIRROR THIS WILL GET YOUR HEAD STRAIGHT




OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN EXECUTIVE OFFICER
"IT IS SO PRECIOUS
THAT YOU WOULD HAVE WANTED TO KEEP IT CLOSE"
IT IS WELL TAKEN CARE OF

THE GRAIL...
IS SEALED INSIDE AN OBJECT THAT NEVER LEAVES ME.
HMM...
AT LEAST I GOT SOME INTERESTING INFORMATION

BLOODY CROSS

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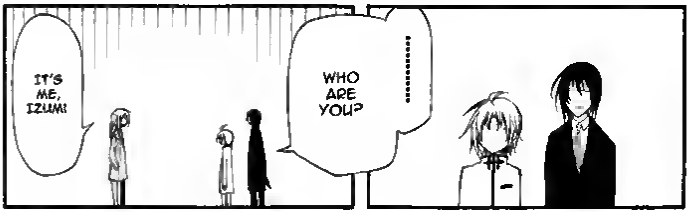
カツ
SO THESE ARE THE NEW HEAD OFFICES OF ARCANA
GEE...

Chapter 27: Kindhearted Beasts

BLOODY CROSS

HI EVERY-ONE!
I SEE YOU'VE STEPPED UP THE SECURITY, IZUMI!
THERE WERE SO MANY SECURITY PROTOCOLS TO PASS THROUGH,
THAT IT TOOK US HALF AN HOUR IN ALL.
WAIT FIVE MINUTES FOR YOUR PASS
PLEASE DROP OFF YOUR WEAPON
STRIP-SEARCHING
THIS BRANCH DEALS WITH MORE DELICATE MISSIONS THAN HEADQUARTERS
THAT'S WHY THE SECURITY PROTOCOL IS STRICTER
AND...

AFTER WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME...
WE MUST STAY ALERT.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU IN THE DARK


IT'S ME, IZUMI
WHO ARE YOU?

NIKO
PAY NO ATTENTION TO IT
OH, THAT... IT'S BECAUSE I USED MY POWERS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG WHILE
BUT... YOUR HAIR...
DID YOU BLEACH IT?
WH...
KUKI
BRING TEA FOR OUR GUESTS
MAMA
HEY? WHERE IS MAKINO?
TURN
I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HIM SINCE YESTERDAY.
I HOPE HE IS SAFE.

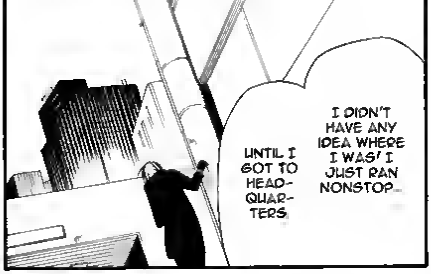
NOT TO MY KNOW-LEDGE
ARE OTHER PEOPLE MISSING?
IT SEEMS THE RURIERS ABDUCTED THE HALF-BLOOD
MAYBE THE SAME THING HAP-PENED TO HIM!
DID HE GO MISS-ING?
YOUR EXCEL-LENCY...
TSUKIMIYA AND MAKINO HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON.
I DON'T UNDER-STAND.
WHY HAVE BOTH OF THEM BEEN ABDUCTED?
YOUR

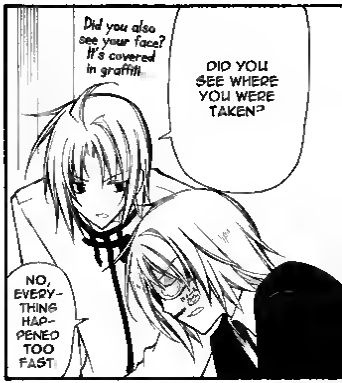
MAKINO!
!

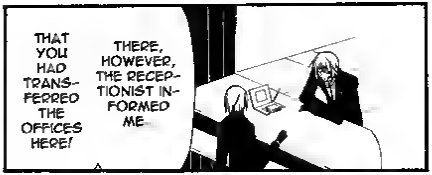
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
HANA
THE ENEMY

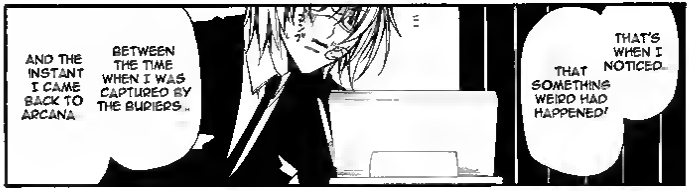
TSS
SO HE WAS REALLY ABDUCTED
HE'S REALLY COLD
PREPARE A ROOM AND WARM COVERS!

!!
THE ENEMY TOOK ME PRISONER BUT I ES-CAPED

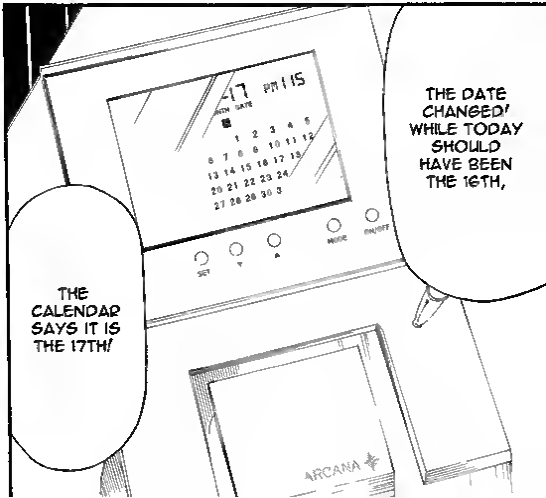

I DIDN'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE I WAS! I JUST RAN NONSTOP...
UNTIL I GOT TO HEAD-QUAR-TERS.


Did you also see your face? It's covered in graffiti.
DID YOU SEE WHERE YOU WERE TAKEN?
NO, EVERY-THING HAP-PENED TOO FAST.


THERE, HOWEVER, THE RECEP-TIONIST IN-FORMED ME
THAT YOU HAD TRANS-FERRED THE OFFICES HERE!


BETWEEN THE TIME WHEN I WAS CAPTURED BY THE BURIERS...
AND THE INSTANT I CAME BACK TO ARCANA
THAT'S WHEN I NOTICED...
THAT SOMETHING WEIRD HAD HAPPENED!

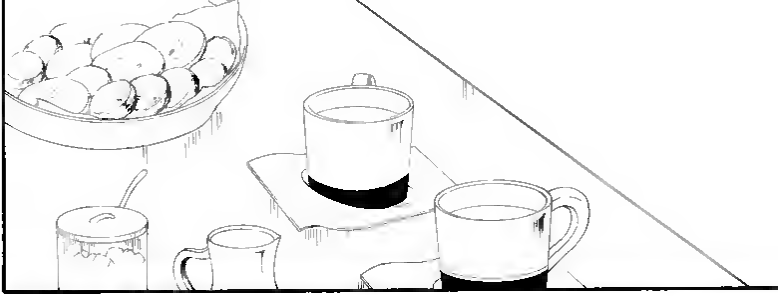
?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
PROB-ABLY DUE TO A SPELL?

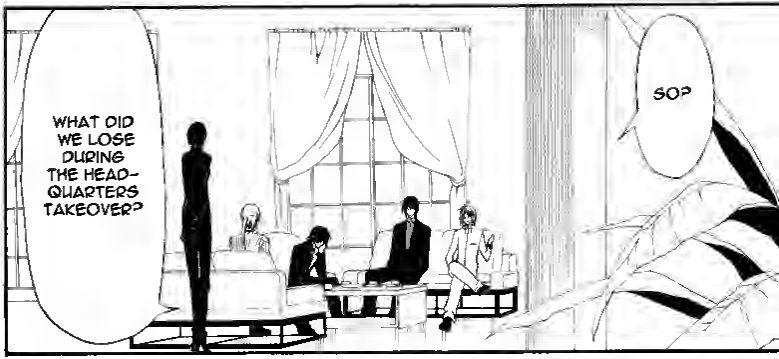

THE DATE CHANGED! WHILE TODAY SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE 16TH,
THE CALENDAR SAYS IT IS THE 17TH!
17 PM 11:15
SET
MODE
ON/OFF
ARCANA

IT'S POSSIBLE THAT YOU WERE CARRIED TO A DIFFERENT DIMENSION WHERE TIME FLOWS FASTER...
YESTERDAY
Makina's abduction
TODAY
The director has moved Arcana's head office
ALTHOUGH IT'S POSSIBLE YOU COULD HAVE JUST TAKEN A DAY TO COME BACK.
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW THE TRUE STORY?
SLURP
OH
YOU ARE FIVE MINUTES LATE!
WHAT POSSESSED YOU TO COME IN LIKE THAT?! YOU SCARED ME!
IN FACT, I WAS ON MY WAY HOME...
WHEN I SAW HIM...

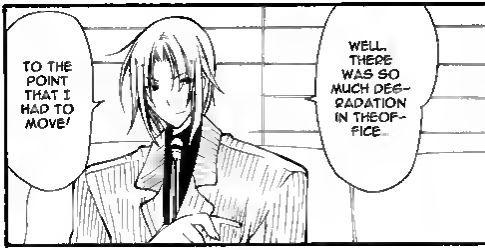
A LITTLE WHILE AFTER BEING ABDUCTED BY THESE GUYS...
MAKINO WOKE UP, THEN STRUGGLED BACK
SHUT UP!
TOKIWA FORBADE YOU TO BRING HIM
THEY THREW HIM AWAY...
IN A PUBLIC GARDEN TRASHBIN.
Well... He'll wake up. No sense worrying...
THE DAY AFTER.
HEY?
IT HURTS!
OWCH!
HE WAS UNCONSCIOUS FOR A WHOLE DAY.
THEY'RE GONNA KILL ME!!

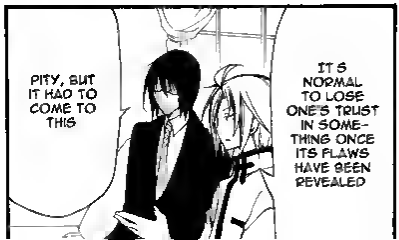
HMM...
NONE, INDEED
BUT WHAT INTEREST HAD THE ENEMY... IN CAPTURING HIM?
THAT EXPLAINS WHY YOU STINK
Please leave the room
To be honest, the smell you are giving off make me warrt to vomit
I WILL PUT HIM OUT RIGHT AWAY!
YOUR EXCELLENCY! THEY ARE MOCKING ME!
PLEASE SAY SOMETHING!
MAYBE ASKING FOR A RANSOM? WHAT A STRANGE IDEA!
HE DOESN'T EVEN POSSESS ANY INTERESTING INFORMATION...
Weird, weird
Yes
MAKINO...
THAT'S TOO MMMUCH !!

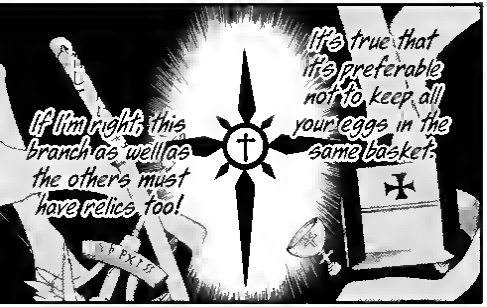



WHAT OID WE LOSE DURING THE HEAD-QUARTERS TAKEOVER?
SO?

ALMOST ALL THE RELICS KEPT IN THE HEAD OFFICE...
WERE STOLEN!


TO THE POINT THAT I HAD TO MOVE!
WELL, THERE WAS SO MUCH DEGRADATION IN THEOFFICE...

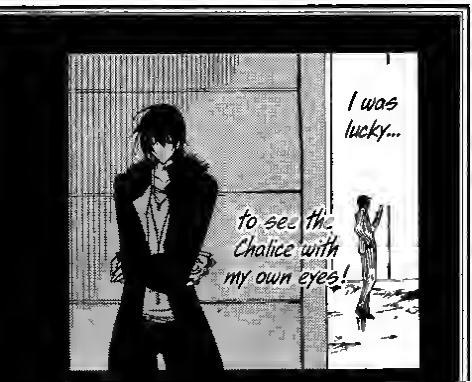

PITY, BUT IT HAD TO COME TO THIS
IT'S NORMAL TO LOSE ONE'S TRUST IN SOMETHING ONCE ITS FLAWS HAVE BEEN REVEALED

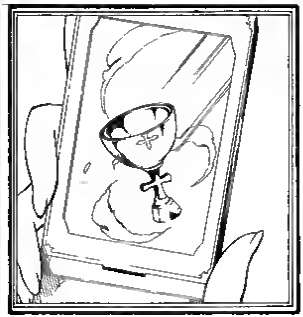

It's true that it's preferable not to keep all your eggs in the same basket.
If I'm right, this branch as well as the others must have relics, too!

"In the head office"? Does that mean there are relics stored elsewhere?

How many exactly... do they possess in total?

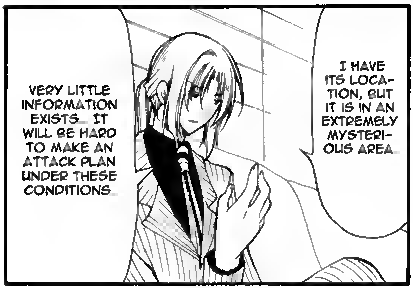
Heh heh

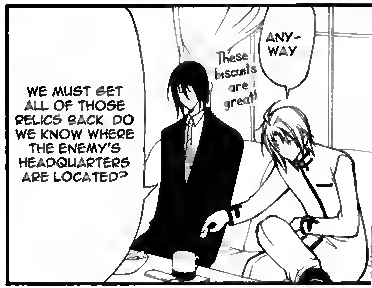

I was lucky...
to see the Chalice with my own eyes!



Izumi hides it in the pocket of his jacket!

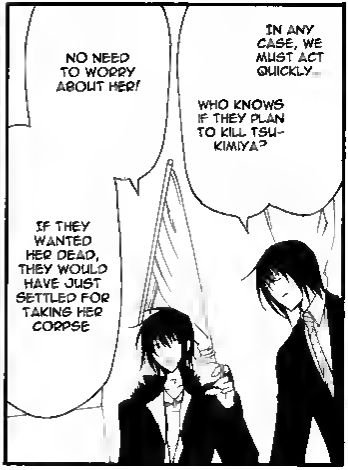
In short...
ゴソ
It will be tough to steal it from him!

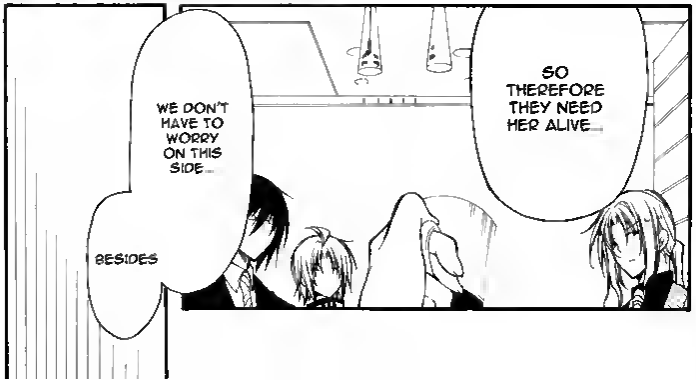

I HAVE ITS LOCATION, BUT IT IS IN AN EXTREMELY MYSTERIOUS AREA.
VERY LITTLE INFORMATION EXISTS... IT WILL BE HARD TO MAKE AN ATTACK PLAN UNDER THESE CONDITIONS.


WE MUST GET ALL OF THOSE RELICS BACK. DO WE KNOW WHERE THE ENEMY'S HEADQUARTERS ARE LOCATED?
These biscuits are great!
ANY-WAY

THE GUY WE FOUGHT USED A RELIC WITH THE SHAPE OF A SWORD
AND HE HAD AN OVERWHELMING ADVANTAGE OVER US...
HOWEVER HE TOOK THE CARE NOT TO KILL HER!

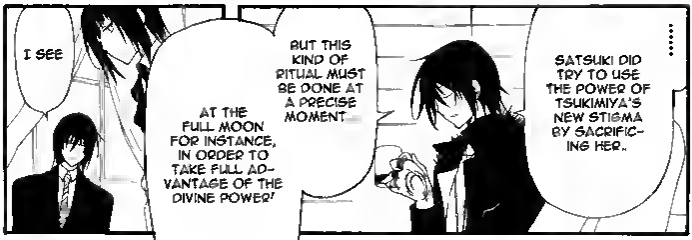
YOUR INFORMATION NETWORK HAD NOTHING? SURPRISING..
.....
ぐぅ。


IN ANY CASE, WE MUST ACT QUICKLY...
WHO KNOWS IF THEY PLAN TO KILL TSUKIMIYA?
NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT HER!
IF THEY WANTED HER DEAD, THEY WOULD HAVE JUST SETTLED FOR TAKING HER CORPSE


SO THEREFORE THEY NEED HER ALIVE...
WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ON THIS SIDE...
BESIDES

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

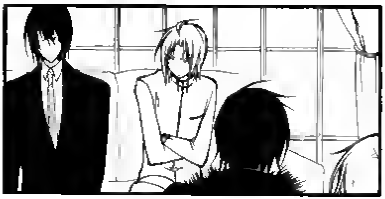
JUST WHEN HE WAS ABOUT TO TAKE HER...
HE SAID SOME-THING ABOUT A 'BLACK MARK.'


.....
SATSUKI DID TRY TO USE THE POWER OF TSUKIMIYA'S NEW STIGMA BY SACRIFIC-ING HER.
BUT THIS KIND OF RITUAL MUST BE DONE AT A PRECISE MOMENT...
AT THE FULL MOON FOR INSTANCE, IN ORDER TO TAKE FULL AD-VANTAGE OF THE DIVINE POWER!
I SEE

COME...
TO THINK OF IT,
IN THE BEGINNING...
THE GOD BURIERS CAME TO GET THE CHALICE OF CREATION...
THEN...
THEY PROBABLY INTEND TO TRY AND TRADE TSUKIMIYA FOR YOUR RELIC!
THAT IS A POSSIBILITY...
THIS GIRL HAS BEEN CAPTURED WHILE SHE WAS WORKING FOR ARCANA...
THEREFORE, IT IS OUR DUTY TO TAKE PART IN HER RESCUE.
HOWEVER, I DOUBT THEY WILL DELIVER HER TO US...
EVEN IF I HAND OVER THE CHALICE
I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO LEARN...
THAT THEY NEED BOTH OF THEM
IN ANY CASE, TOKIWA SEEMED SATISFIED TO AT LEAST HAVE GOTTEN ONE OF THEM

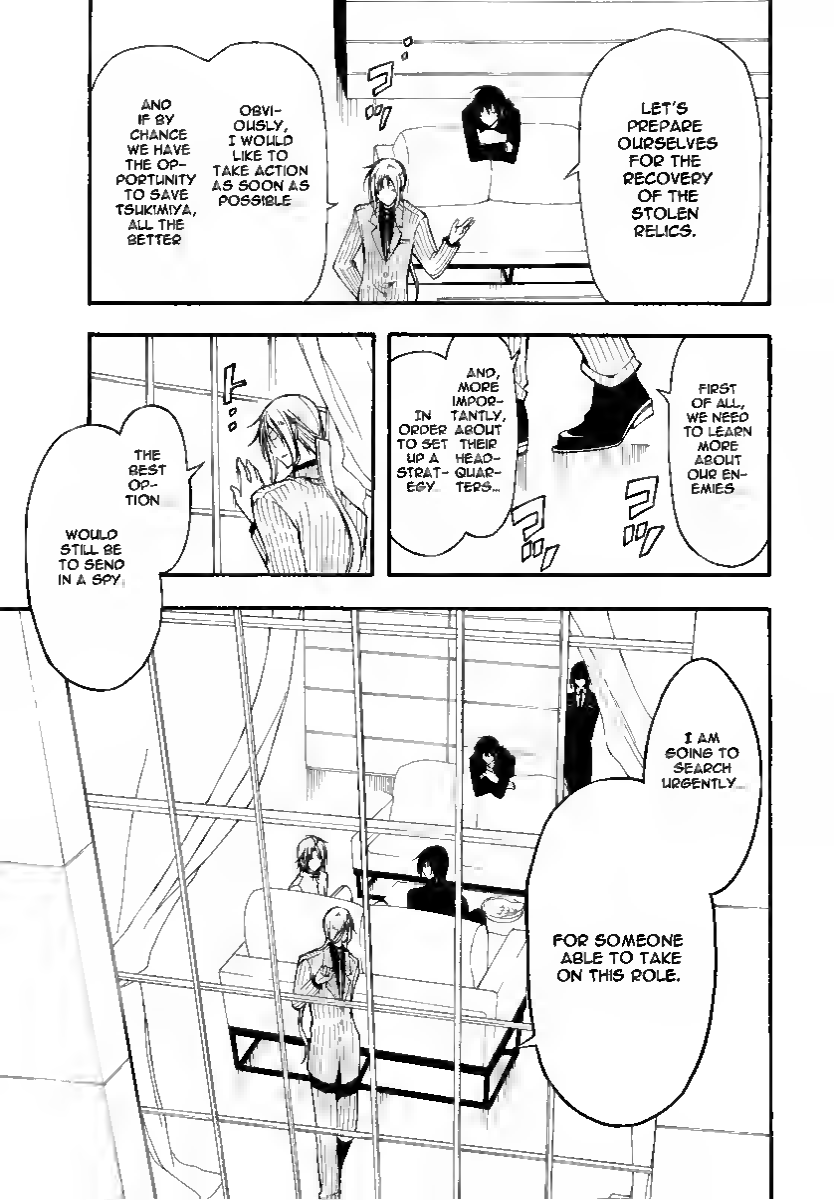
.....
BESIDES
I'LL BE BLUNT ABOUT IT...

EVEN IF WE HAVE OBLIGATIONS TOWARD THIS GIRL, IT WOULD BE TOO MUCH OF A LOSS FOR ARCANA.
TO TRADE THE CHALICE FOR HER.
SO SORRY.



WHAT A STONE HEART!
Damn! Getting that relic promises to be harder than expected.

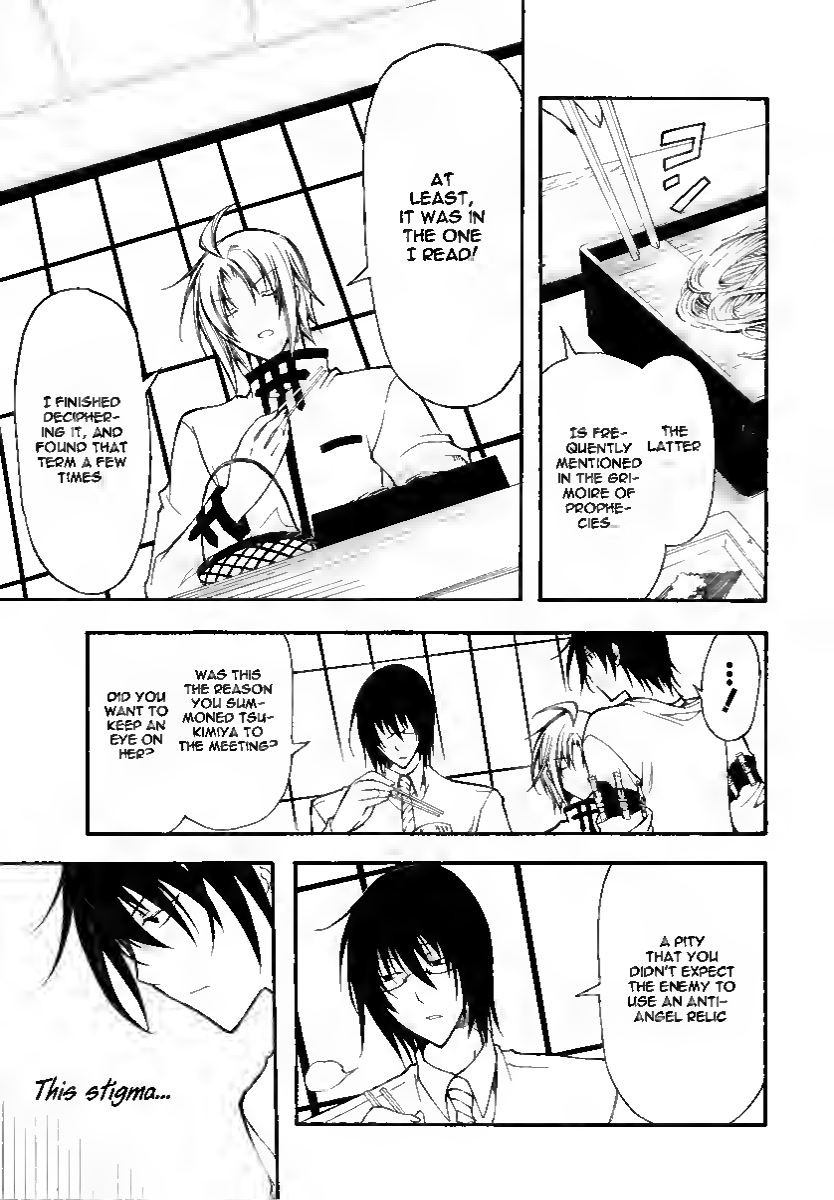
.....
Be more like yourself!
It's obvious that something is bothering Tsuzuki.


LET'S PREPARE OURSELVES FOR THE RECOVERY OF THE STOLEN RELICS.
OBVIOUSLY, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
AND IF BY CHANCE WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE TSUKIMIYA, ALL THE BETTER
FIRST OF ALL, WE NEED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR ENEMIES
AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, ABOUT THEIR HEADQUARTERS...
IN ORDER TO SET UP A STRATEGY
THE BEST OPTION
WOULD STILL BE TO SEND IN A SPY.
I AM GOING TO SEARCH URGENTLY
FOR SOMEONE ABLE TO TAKE ON THIS ROLE.

I'M LISTENING
JUST WHAT EXACTLY IS THE "BLACK MARK"?

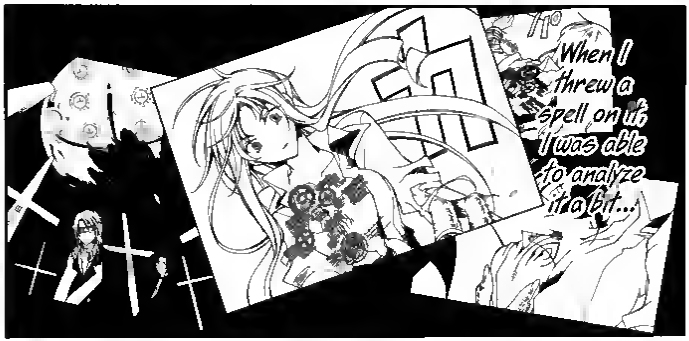
A VERY OLD-FASHIONED NAME...
FOR THE DARK STIGMA
ガヤガヤ

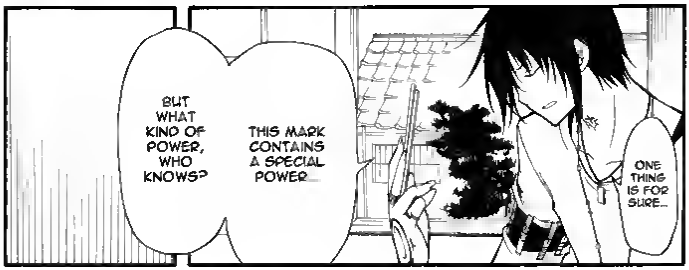
……


AT LEAST, IT WAS IN THE ONE I READ!
I FINISHED DECIPHERING IT, AND FOUND THAT TERM A FEW TIMES
THE LATTER IS FREQUENTLY MENTIONED IN THE GRIMOIRE OF PROPHECIES...
...!
WAS THIS THE REASON YOU SUMMONED TSUKIMIYA TO THE MEETING?
DID YOU WANT TO KEEP AN EYE ON HER?
A PITY THAT YOU DIDN'T EXPECT THE ENEMY TO USE AN ANTI-ANGEL RELIC
This stigma...

This would mean a close link to the Crusade.

Was also evoked in the Book of Daath!

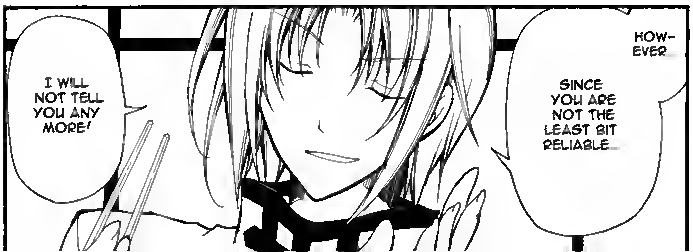

When I threw a spell on it, I was able to analyze it a bit...


BUT WHAT KIND OF POWER, WHO KNOWS?
THIS MARK CONTAINS A SPECIAL POWER
ONE THING IS FOR SURE...

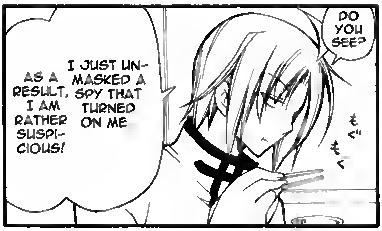
IT IS A KIND OF PACT.

A LINK...
THAT UNITES TWO GODS TO EACH OTHER

WHICH MEANS?


HOW-EVER...
SINCE YOU ARE NOT THE LEAST BIT RELIABLE...
I WILL NOT TELL YOU ANY MORE!

EXCUSE ME?
I HAVE NO GUARANTEES THAT YOU WON'T BETRAY ME...


DO YOU SEE?
I JUST UNMASKED A SPY THAT TURNED ON ME
AS A RESULT, I AM RATHER SUSPICIOUS!

THAT'S NOT NICE...
I'M PRETTY SURE I'VE GOTTEN YOU OFF THE HOOK MANY TIMES AS OF LATE!
I'VE EVEN LOST ARCANA'S TRUST, WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN A BIG SUPPORT TO ME!

I CONSIDER THAT YOU ARE CUNNING ENOUGH TO DRAW YOUR OWN CONCLUSIONS!

WELL, I AM GOING TO PRESENT THE THINGS IN ANOTHER WAY...

MOREOVER, I HAVE THE TENDENCY TO WATCH WHAT I SAY SINCE YOU NEVER KNOW...
THE WALLS HAVE EARS!
WHO KNOWS IF SOMEONE ISN'T LISTENING TO US FROM THE OUTSIDE?

YOUR SPECIALTY IS COLLECTING INFORMATION...
YOU'LL HAVE TO FIND THE ANSWERS FOR YOURSELF!

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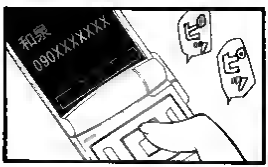
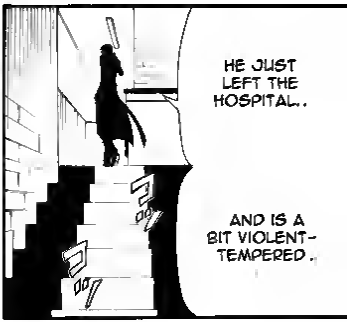

私家
090XXXXXXX
ピッ
トゥルルル...

HELLO?

DO YOU STILL INTEND TO SEND A SPY INTO THE GOD BURIERS?
TELL ME
BECAUSE I KNOW THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE JOB!

WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
IS IT YOU, IZUMI?
SORRY TO DISTURB YOU SO LATE

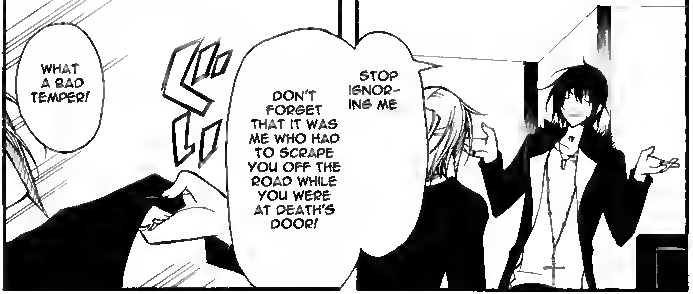

HE JUST LEFT THE HOSPITAL..
AND IS A BIT VIOLENT-TEMPERED.

310
HE WOULD BE ABLE TO MOVE HEAVEN AND EARTH WHILE STAYING LOYAL TO YOU!
BUT WITH A NICE REWARD AT STAKE.

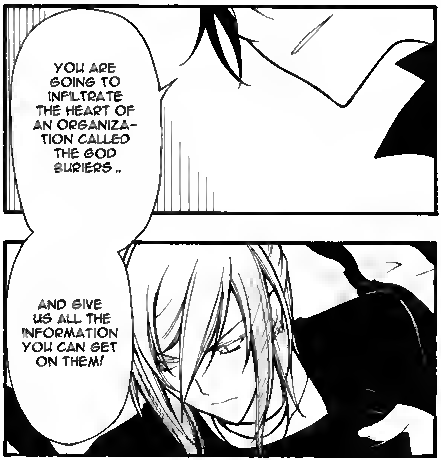
WHY DID YOU NOT INFORM TSUZUKI?
TO WIN YOUR FAVOR, OF COURSE!
I'M JOKING!
IT IS SIMPLY THAT THE PURE-BLOOD WOULD NEVER AGREE TO HIRE HIM...
FURTHERMORE IT WOULD BE A PITY NOT TO MAKE USE OF HIM. HE HAS A GIFT FOR COMBAT AND IS QUICK-MINDED!
IF YOU ARE COOL WITH THAT,
I CAN INTRODUCE YOU TO HIM IMMEDIATELY!

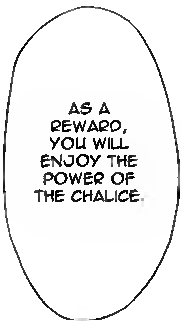
YOU LOOK TO BE IN EXCELLENT SHAPE...

YEAH, YOU'RE ALL FIXED UP!


WHAT A BAD TEMPER!
DON'T FORGET THAT IT WAS ME WHO HAD TO SCRAPE YOU OFF THE ROAD WHILE YOU WERE AT DEATH'S DOOR!
STOP IGNORING ME

I HAVE SPOKEN ABOUT YOU TO ARCANA'S CHIEF!
BE GLAD I'VE FOUND YOU A GREAT JOB.


YOU ARE GOING TO INFILTRATE THE HEART OF AN ORGANIZATION CALLED THE GOD BURIERS..
AND GIVE US ALL THE INFORMATION YOU CAN GET ON THEM!


AS A REWARD, YOU WILL ENJOY THE POWER OF THE CHALICE.

WHICH WILL ALLOW YOU TO REMOVE, ONCE AND FOR ALL,
THIS HORRIBLE STIGMA OF THE HALF-BLOOD...
WHICH YOU ALREADY TORE IN HALF!
WHAT DO YOU SAY TO THAT?
THIS OFFER IS TOO TEMPTING I DON'T TRUST IT
RELAX
I WILL GET MY SHARE TOO!

IZUMI...
HAS HIDDEN THE CHALICE IN A POCKET MIRROR THAT HE KEEPS ON HIM AT ALL TIMES
IN ORDER TO FREE YOU FROM THE CURSE...
HE WILL BE OBLIGATED TO TAKE OUT THE SACRED OBJECT!
IT IS AT THAT MOMENT THAT I WILL INTERVENE!
I WANT THAT RELIC...
AND I KNOW...
YOU WANT MORE THAN ANYTHING TO REMOVE THE CURSE THAT IS WEIGHING ON YOU!

SO, ARE YOU IN?
IN ANY CASE, IF YOU DON'T TRY YOUR LUCK NOW -
YOU RISK DYING BEFORE A NEW OPPORTUNITY COMES AROUND!
YOU'RE BEGINNING TO ANNOY ME...
OWW!! MY STOMACH!
WHAT IS THIS PAIN THAT IS ASSAILING ME?
OWWWW!
Oops
キリ
IDIOT...
IT IS TOO MUCH FOR A STOMACH AS SENSITIVE AS MINE!
THE UNHOLY ALLIANCE OF EXOTIC FRUIT MILKS, PRAWN CRACKERS, AND BUCKWHEAT NOODLES AREN'T BLENDING WELL...

ブラッディ・クロス

BLOODY CROSS

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by YONEYAMA Shiwo

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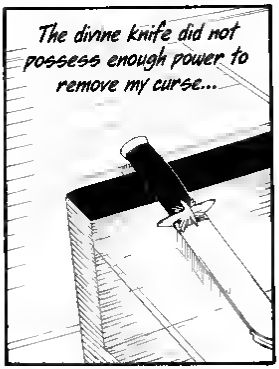
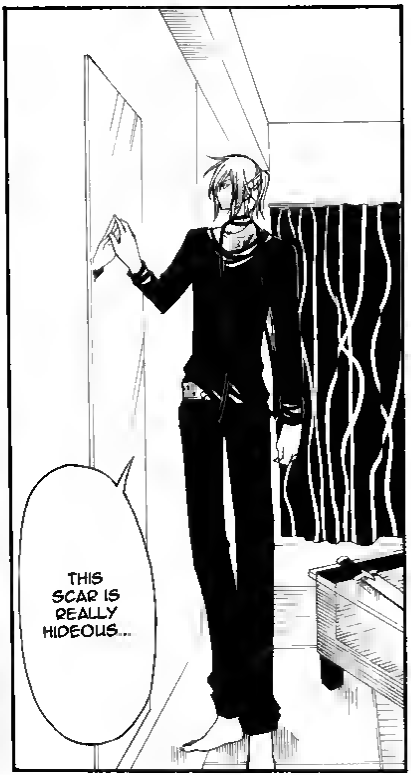
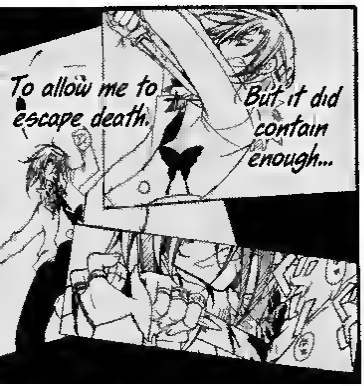

The divine knife did not possess enough power to remove my curse...

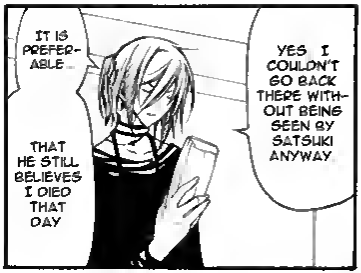

THIS SCAR IS REALLY HIDEOUS...


To allow me to escape death.
But it did contain enough...

I cannot use this ruse anymore...
TSK...
My body wouldn't be able to handle another attempt at it...
I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO JOIN HINATA!

第28話：暗闇の中で

WELL NOW, YOU'RE STARTING TO DESTROY EVERYTHING AGAIN?
IT'S TRUE THAT YOU WERE SATSUKI'S SLAVE TO START WITH...
AND NOW, YOU'RE MINE... NOTHING REALLY CHANGES
EVEN THOUGH THIS APARTMENT IS YOURS
.....
HI!
I'M THE ONE LIVING HERE AT THE MOMENT,
SO WOULD YOU KINDLY STOP ENTERING AS YOU PLEASE!
HEY
HAVE YOU FINALLY REALIZED THAT YOU ARE MY TENANT?
On that subject, you owe me for that mirror!
CATCH!


IT IS PREFERABLE..
THAT HE STILL BELIEVES I DIED THAT DAY
YES I COULDN'T GO BACK THERE WITHOUT BEING SEEN BY SATSUKI ANYWAY

THIS IS THE MONEY FROM THE SALE OF ALL THE STUFF IN YOUR OLD HOME..
DID I DO ALL RIGHT?
.....

WHAT A FIGHT, I MUST SAY
IT IS TRUE THAT MOST PEOPLE WOULD NEVER HAVE COME OUT ALIVE!
GIVEN THE STATE YOU WERE IN

...GH...
AFTER SURVIVING THE HALF-BLOOD CURSE...
DAMN IT...

DYING HERE IS OUT OF THE QUESTION!!

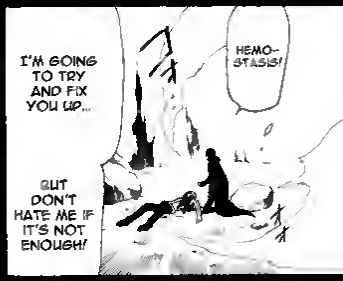
T/N: HEMOSTASIS IS THE STOPPING OF BLOOD FLOW

AND I WILL GIVE THE ORDERS FROM A COM-FORTABLE LOCATION!
FROM NOW ON, I'LL SEND MINIONS TO DO ALL MY WORK...
THIS IS THE LAST TIME I COME BY MYSELF!

LOOKS LIKE I HAVE FOUND MY FIRST MINION!
HMM...

HE FELL A LONG WAY...
YET HE'S STILL BREATHING. HE'S PRETTY LUCKY...
For a dying man.

THIS INJURY...
DID HE TRY TO REMOVE THE CURSE ON HIS OWN?

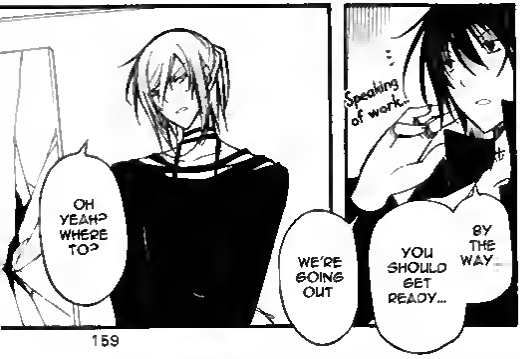

I'M GOING TO TRY AND FIX YOU UP...
BUT DON'T HATE ME IF IT'S NOT ENOUGH!
HEMOSTASIS!

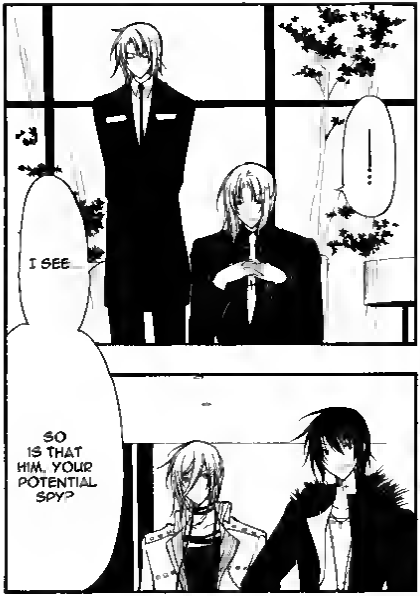
WHAT?

IF YOU HAD SOME MORE GUTS...
YOU WOULD PROBABLY BE FREE FROM YOUR CURSE!
Unfortunately for him, his mark's still there...
WHAT AN IDIOT!

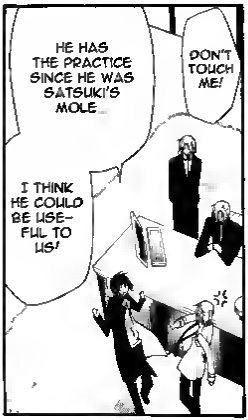
I'M REALLY TOO KIND!
FURTHER-MORE
I'VE EVEN FOUND YOU A MISSION THAT WILL REMOVE YOUR CURSE..
POOH!

WELL...
IF I DIDN'T CARRY YOU TO THE HOSPITAL, YOU WOULD HAVE DEFINITELY KICKED THE BUCKET SOMETIME!
YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL TO ME!


OH YEAH? WHERE TO?
WE'RE GOING OUT
Speaking of work...
BY THE WAY...
YOU SHOULD GET READY...


!!!
I SEE...
SO IS THAT HIM, YOUR POTENTIAL SPY?

YOUR JOB INTERVIEW!


HE HAS THE PRACTICE SINCE HE WAS SATSUKI'S MOLE...
DON'T TOUCH ME!
I THINK HE COULD BE USE-FUL TO US!

NOT QUITE. HE'S ONLY HALF DEAD!
ISN'T HE SUP-POSED TO BE DEAD?
GOOO-NESS.

HE DIDN'T MANAGE TO BREAK HIS CURSE. IF HE LEAVES HIS MARK IN THIS STATE, HIS LIFE WILL END SOONER OR LATER!
It's ugly, isn't it?
LOOK!

THAT IS TRUE IT'S NOT BAD CONSIDERING HE HAS EXPERIENCE...
ON THE OTHER HAND, I'LL ADMIT IT BOTHERS ME A LITTLE THAT IT'S YOU WHO'S RECOMMENDING HIM...
WELL, WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE DO
HUH?
That guy always says hurtful things...
IT'S OBVIOUS NO ONE CAN STAND YOU...
SHUT UP!
ANYWAY
THE INTERVIEW WENT WELL THAT'S THE MAIN THING!
AND NOW, IZUMI...
YES?
IF YOU COULD JUST...
SIGN THIS CONTRACT!
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
IT IS ABOUT THE REWARD...
HIS LIFE IS AT STAKE, AFTER ALL!
WE DON'T WANT YOU RUNNING OFF...
ONCE THE MISSION IS ACCOMPLISHED!

ARCANA WILL USE THE CHALICE OF CREATION...
JUST TO MAKE THINGS CLEAR, IF NAO MANAGES TO INFILTRATE THE GROUP AND SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES HIS MISSION...
TO PULL OFF THE CURSE THAT WEIGHS ON HIM!
I NEED ASSURANCE, YOU GOT THAT?
HAA
YOU'RE TAKING ME BY SURPRISE!
WELL...
Cunning, right?
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, THIS CONTRACT CONTAINS A SPELL!
IF YOU BREAK YOUR OATH, YOU WILL SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES
WELL...
LIKE WHAT?
I'M ADDING A CONDITION FOR IT TO BE A BIT MORE BALANCED
IN THAT CASE.

YOU WILL BE GOING TOO!
HINATA
I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A SECOND SPY INSIDE THE GOD BURIERS
EXCUSE ME?
I'M NOT CONVINCED.
HOW CAN I BE SURE YOU AREN'T ALREADY WORKING FOR SOMEONE ELSE..
AND THAT YOU'RE NOT TASKED TO TAKE US FOR A RIDE?
I PREFER YOU TWO WORKING AS A TEAM.
THAT WAY, NAO CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE DIVINE POWER..
AND I'LL EVEN REWARD YOU, HINATA
SO...

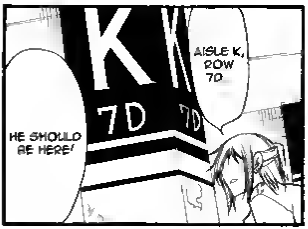
WH...
ARE WE OKAY?
IN A NUTSHELL...
YOU ARE GOING TO KEEP AN EYE ON EACH OTHER SO NEITHER OF YOU BETRAY ME...
PRACTICAL AND EFFI-CIENT!
PER-FECT!
ARE YOU FUCKING WITH US?
I DIDN'T WANT TO BE THE ONLY ONE TAKING RISKS HERE!!
Heh heh...
Err Err

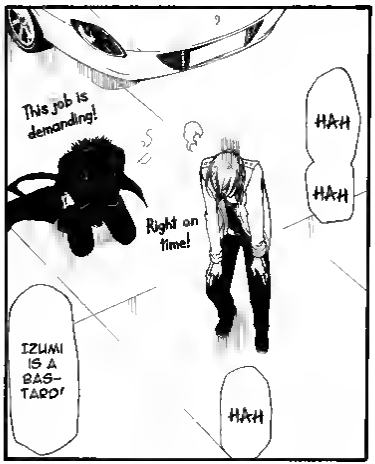
VERY GOOD, IT'S A DEAL!
I'M ADDING MY CONDITION AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CON-TRACT...
AND I'M SIGN-ING...

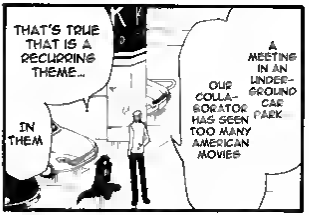
WHAT IS THIS?
...
OH, THAT'S RIGHT
IT'S TIME, YOUR EXCELLENCY
YOU'RE TELLING ME!
HOW DID I GET INTO THIS MESS?
OH MY
It didn't work!
I didn't want to dirty my hands...
All three of us have it!
THE SYMBOL OF THE PACT
ONCE IT IS HONOURED THIS MARK WILL DISAPPEAR...
PFFT
NO
You are going to dispatch us so...
OO YOU HAVE ANOTHER MEETING? YOUR DAYS ARE UNUSUALLY FULL!
HOW SO?
IT'S YOUR SCHEDULE THAT'S FULL!

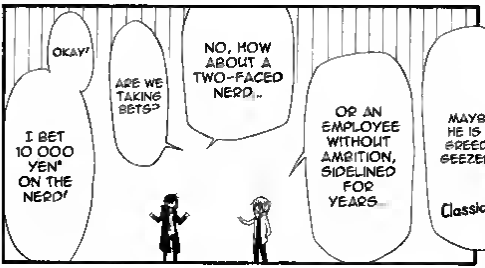
THIS PERSON WILL GIVE US INFORMATION...
AND MAKE YOUR INFILTRATION EASIER
TO TELL THE TRUTH, I HAVE ALREADY LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR THIS MISSION...
BY CORRUPTING AN EXECUTIVE OF THE GOD BURIERS
ARCANA HAD ANOTHER TRICK UP ITS SLEEVE!
Nice Work!
AWESOME!!
HA HA HA... YOU ASKED FOR A HUGE REWARD...
AND IF THIS IS JUST A TRAP SET UP BY THE ENEMY? HE COULD JUST WANT TO TAKE US OUT UNDER THE PRETEXT OF HELPING US GET IN!
CONSEQUENTLY, YOUR MISSION WILL NOT BE A SIMPLE COURTESY CALL.
WHAT?!
I'd advise you not to use teleportation. That would be too garish...
HOWEVER, YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT THERE IN TIME, EVEN IF YOU RUN...
SO, YOU'LL BE MEETING HER IN FIVE MINUTES
I'LL NEED YOU TO CONFIRM HIS INFORMATION
OF COURSE NOT! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO BELIEVE EVERYTHING HE TELLS US
ピコーン!!
Without having to set foot in their HQ!
THANKS TO THIS AGENT, WE CAN GET INFORMATION ON THEM...
LET ME THINK BUT

This guy is a demon...
Under his friendly mask!
THAT IS ALL.
THE TIME AND THE MEETING PLACE IS WRITTEN ON THIS PAPER...
ALSO, HE KEEPS CHANGING THE SUBJECT...
THIS IS THE WORST DEAL I'VE EVER DONE!
YOU'D BETTER HURRY UP TOO, HINATA!
I knew this would happen...
I don't feel like going there.
GH...
I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE!
BUT YOU JUST WATCH, I'LL MAKE IT THERE IN FIVE MINUTES!
YOU OWE ME FOR THIS ONE, IZUMI!
MAKINO
YOU ARE GOING TO FOLLOW THEM
TWO SPIES WHO TEAM UP WITH A CORRUPTED EMPLOYEE...
I DON'T TRUST THEM!
THERE IS A STRONG PROBABILITY THAT THEY ARE PLOTTING SOMETHING BEHIND MY BACK.
UNDERSTOOD!






A MEETING IN AN UNDER-GROUND CAR PARK
OUR COLLA-BORATOR HAS SEEN TOO MANY AMERICAN MOVIES
THAT'S TRUE THAT IS A RECURRING THEME...
IN THEM


OKAY!
I BET 10 000 YEN* ON THE NERD!
ARE WE TAKING BETS?
NO, HOW ABOUT A TWO-FACED NERD...
OR AN EMPLOYEE WITHOUT AMBITION, SIDELINED FOR YEARS...
MAYBE HE IS A GREEDY GEEZER...
Classic!
HMM.
Where is he?
HE MUST BE A VERY SHADY GUY
SINCE HE DID NOT HESITATE TO SELL HIS ORGANIZA-TION...

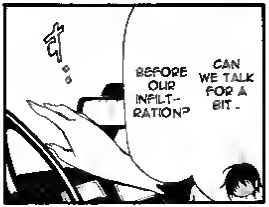
T/N AROUND 100 EUROS

I BET 30,000 YEN
ON THE BEAUTIFUL, YOUNG GIRL TIRED OF HER LIFE
IN THAT CASE
GET IN
HURRY UP!
I'VE BEEN INFORMED OF YOUR ARRIVAL
A woman?
Who is she?
BUT... WHAT?!

WHAA...!!
WE'RE LEAVING WITHOUT A "HELLO" OR ANY EXPLANATION AT ALL?!
ARGH!
I can't handle the G's!
HEY!
BUT...
WHAT'S WITH THIS CAR CHASE?!

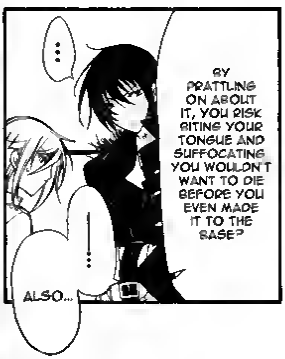
TELL ME
ARE YOU PART OF THE GOD BURIERS?
I DON'T INTEND TO ASK MANY QUES-TIONS
BUT COULD YOU AT LEAST GIVE ME YOUR NAME?
Hey, do you hear me?

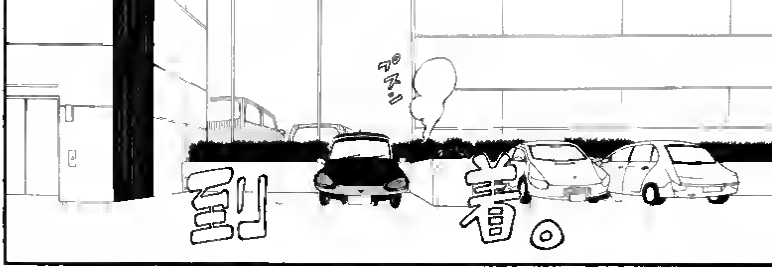
I HAVE ALREADY BEEN BRIEFED ON THE SITUATION..
SO JUST STAY CALM AND REMAIN SILENT!


CAN WE TALK FOR A BIT..
BEFORE OUR INFILT-RATION?

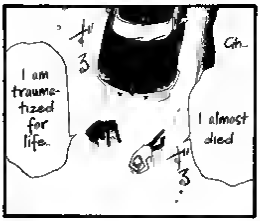
HINATA, IS IT?
AND YOU MUST BE NAO..

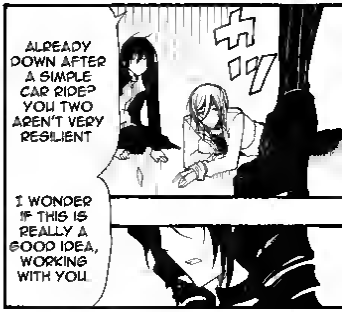
I'D ADVISE YOU TO FASTEN YOUR SEAT-BELTS.
HEY! ARE YOU PLANNING TO DRIVE EVEN FASTER?!
NOOO! LET US GET OFF!!

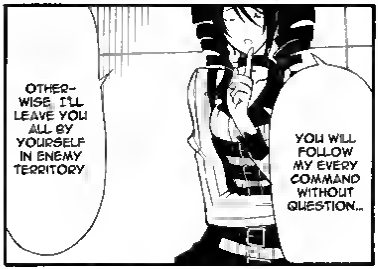

BY PRATTLING ON ABOUT IT, YOU RISK BITING YOUR TONGUE AND SUFFOCATING YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO DIE BEFORE YOU EVEN MADE IT TO THE BASE?
ALSO...


到着。

I AM KANADE.
GOD BURIERS' SIXTH BATTALION CAPTAIN!
WELL, GLAD TO MEET YOU.


I am traumatized for life.
Gh...
I almost died


ALREADY DOWN AFTER A SIMPLE CAR RIDE? YOU TWO AREN'T VERY RESILIENT
I WONDER IF THIS IS REALLY A GOOD IDEA, WORKING WITH YOU.


OTHERWISE, I'LL LEAVE YOU ALL BY YOURSELF IN ENEMY TERRITORY
YOU WILL FOLLOW MY EVERY COMMAND WITHOUT QUESTION...

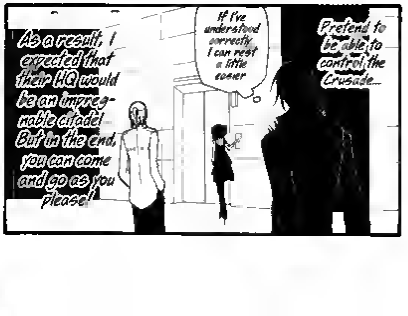
FROM NOW ON...
YOU ARE MY SUBORDINATES!

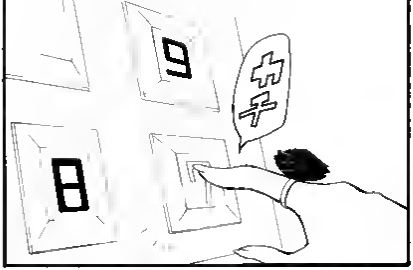
IN OTHER WORDS..
ズビ
CERTAIN DEATH!
IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT.

.....
WAS I CLEAR ENOUGH?
THEN, LET'S GO...
OUR BASE IS LOCATED ON THE SEVENTH FLOOR!

ONCE AT THE TOP, YOU WILL BEGIN BY CHANGING YOUR CLOTHES!
BE READY..

The God Burners...
Why did she give me a flick with her finger?


As a result, I expected that their HQ would be an impregnable citadel. But in the end, you can come and go as you please!
If I've understood correctly, I can rest a little sooner
Pretend to be able to control the Crusade...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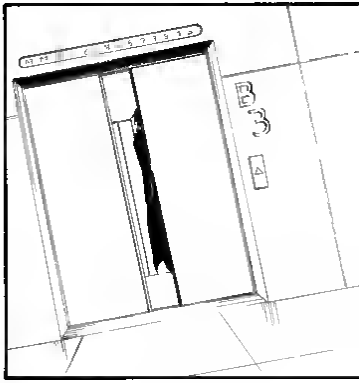
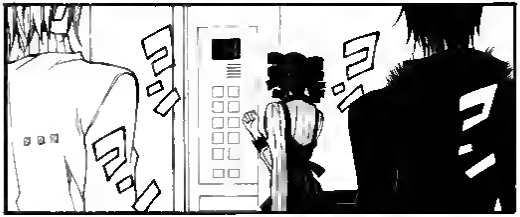
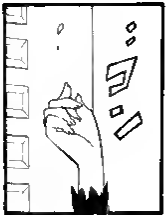
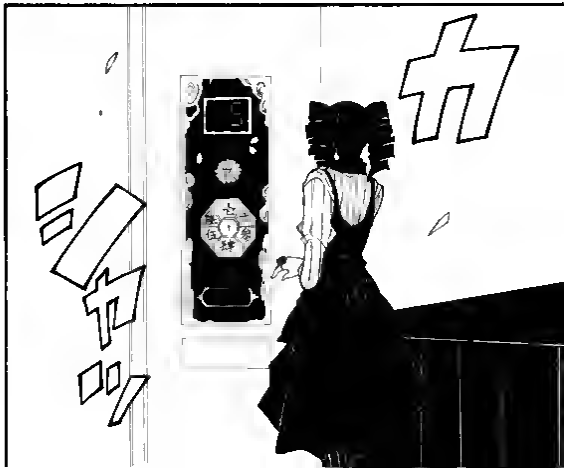

B3

Couldn't manage to get any information on them!!
It seems strange that Arcana...





WHAT?
WELL...
WAIT FOR A MOMENT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WHAT IS... THAT THING?!
開錠
THAT'S IT
WE HAVE ARRIVED!

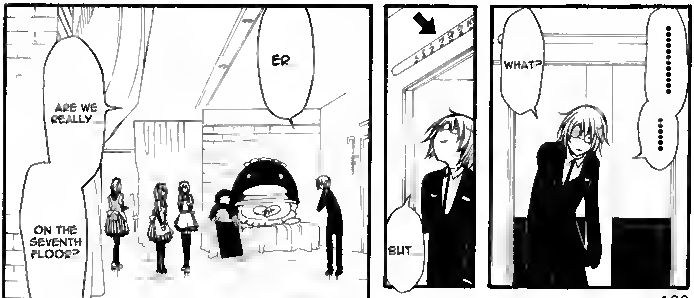
TO THE HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE GOD BURIERS!
WELCOME...
WHERE ARE WE?
WE AREN'T INSIDE A BUILDING ANY-MORE...
!!
This girl...
Thanks to her little weird manipulation...
Must have linked the exit of the lift to another dimension.

NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY ARCANA COULDN'T FIND IT!
HA
I SEE

THEIR LIFT HAS STOPPED ON THE SEV-ENTH FLOOR!
HMM

I DON'T SEE ANY STAIRS...
ding
IT'S NOT EXACTLY DISCREET TO FOLLOW THEM BY TAKING THE LIFT
BUT I DON'T REALLY HAVE A CHOICE!
LET'S GO...
SEVENTH FLOOR PLEASE!
Apparently the building is only occupied by a few companies, without any security system.
Weird that such an organization is so easy to reach...
I hope the lift isn't going to open in the middle of the enemy headquarters...
Rather pitiful as a base, for guys who pretend to control the relics!
WHAT A DISAPPOINTMENT, I HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THESE RUINERS ARE FAR FROM PLAYING WITH THE BIG BOYS...
I DID NOT EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO ENTER THEIR PREMISES SO EASILY...
WHAT TO DO IF I SHOULD COME FACE TO FACE WITH ONE OF THEM NOW?
I WILL HAVE TO BEGIN BY GETTING RID OF THE EVIDENCE...
AS FOR THE REST, I WILL THINK ABOUT IT WHEN THE TIME COMES!
KLAK
DO

Welcome!
How are you, master?!
♡


ER
ARE WE REALLY
ON THE SEVENTH FLOOR?
WHAT?
SHIT

ブラッディクロス

BLOODY CROSS

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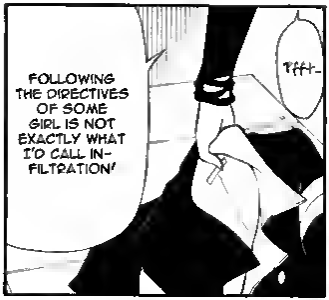
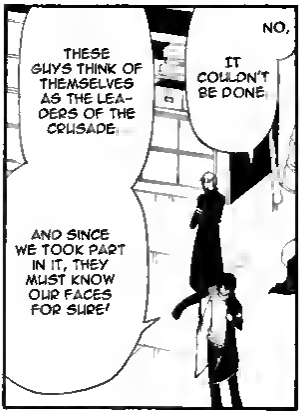
Chapter 29: Sleepless Night

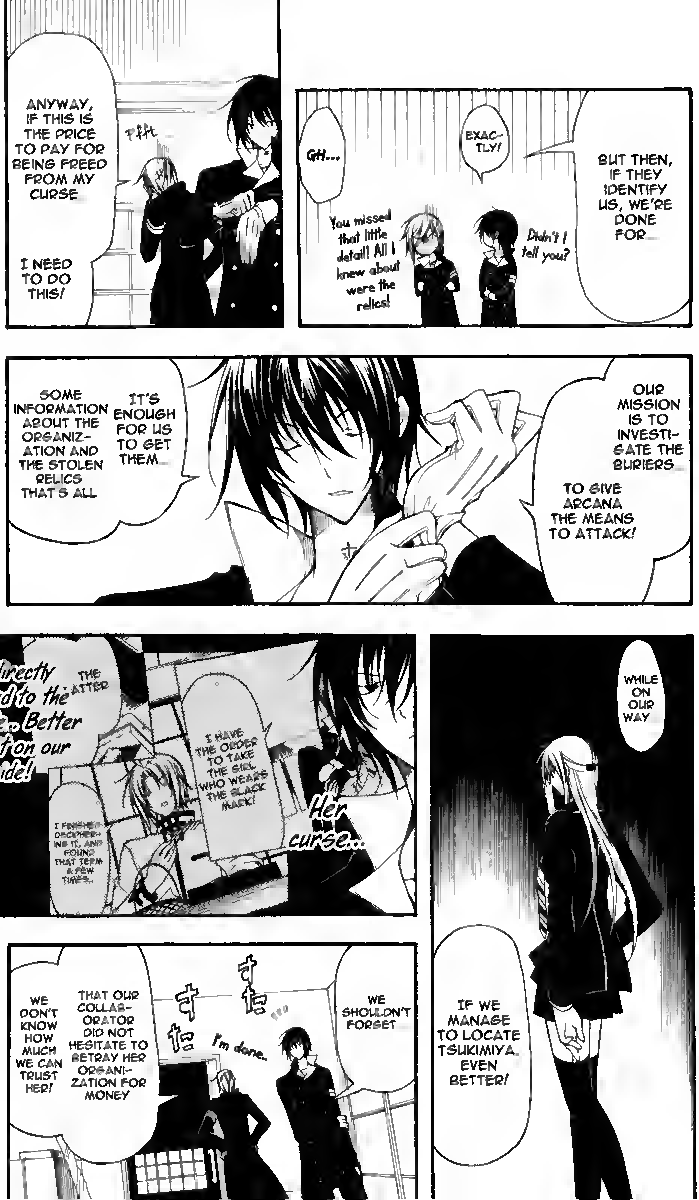

FOLLOWING THE DIRECTIVES OF SOME GIRL IS NOT EXACTLY WHAT I'D CALL IN-FILTRATION!
Tfft-

BY THE WAY... WHERE'S KANADE?
SHE'S CHANGING IN ANOTHER ROOM.


NO, IT COULDN'T BE DONE.
THESE GUYS THINK OF THEMSELVES AS THE LEADERS OF THE CRUSADE.
AND SINCE WE TOOK PART IN IT, THEY MUST KNOW OUR FACES FOR SURE!

NORMALLY...
WE WOULD HAVE ENLISTED IN THEIR RANKS OURSELVES

BY THE WAY, THEY JUST MADE A RAID ON ARCANA...
WHAT?!
News to me!


ANYWAY, IF THIS IS THE PRICE TO PAY FOR BEING FREED FROM MY CURSE...
I NEED TO DO THIS!
BUT THEN, IF THEY IDENTIFY US, WE'RE DONE FOR...
EXAC-TLY!
GH...
You missed that little detail! All I knew about were the relics!
Didn't I tell you?
OUR MISSION IS TO INVESTI-GATE THE BURIERS...
TO GIVE ARCANA THE MEANS TO ATTACK!
IT'S ENOUGH FOR US TO GET THEM...
SOME INFORMATION ABOUT THE ORGANIZ-ATION AND THE STOLEN RELICS THAT'S ALL
WHILE ON OUR WAY
IF WE MANAGE TO LOCATE TSUKIMIYA EVEN BETTER!
Her curse...
Is directly related to the crusade... Better keep it on our side!
THE LATTER
I HAVE THE ODDES TO TAKE THE GIRL WHO WEARS THE BLACK MASK!
I FINISHED DECIPHER-ING IT, AND FOUND THAT TERM A FEW TIMES...
すた
すた
I'm done...
WE SHOULDN'T FORGET
THAT OUR COLLAB-ORATOR DID NOT HESITATE TO BETRAY HER ORGANI-ZATION FOR MONEY
WE DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH WE CAN TRUST HER!

ALSO
WE DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA ABOUT THE AMOUNT SHE RECEIVED
OR ABOUT THE HELP SHE'S MEANT TO GIVE US!
IF THIS GIRL ONLY PLANS TO REVEAL A LITTLE INFORMATION IN EXCHANGE FOR SOME POCKET MONEY...
IT WON'T HELP US AT THAT...
カル
チャ
Warehouse #5
ALL RIGHT
はぐはぐ
ARE YOU FINALLY READY?

SORRY
SINCE I WAS BORED TO DEATH...
I BEGAN LISTENING THROUGH THE DOOR
I MUST SAY THAT YOU REALLY TOOK YOUR TIME...
JUST TO PUT ON A COAT!
YOU'RE WORSE THAN GIRLS!
LOLLI-POP?
Frog or teddy?
I have a few shapes...
ER...
NO THANK YOU.
FROM WHAT I UNDER-STOOD
YOU DON'T TRUST ME, EITHER OF YOU!
ER...
NO, NOT REALLY

!?

きゅん
I FEEL A BIT ODD! ♡

TO YOU, I'M JUST A TRAITOR WHO SOLD OUT HER OWN FOR A LITTLE MONEY..
I HAVE NO MORALS, NO PRINCIPLES, AND AM THE TARGET OF ALL YOUR DISTRUST!
WONDERFUL! THIS FEELING IS WARMING MY HEART!
ﾌﾟﾙﾌﾟﾙ

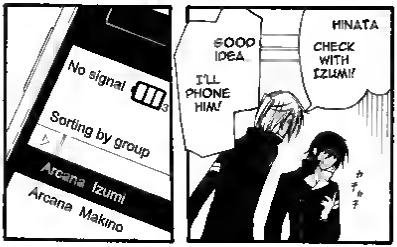
YOU CAN'T IMAGINE HOW MUCH THIS UNCOMFORTABLE POSITION AROUSES ME
I MUST BE A BIT OF A MASOCHIST

AS FOR NOW
TO SPICE UP THE GAME EVEN MORE
LET ME GIVE YOU SOME GOOD NEWS!

I ONLY LIVE FOR EXCITEMENT!
She is crazy!...
More than she appears to be..
THE SMALL GRAIN OF FANTASY
WHICH RESCUES ME FROM THE BOREDOM THAT EMBRACES ME EVERY DAY!

THIS SITUATION ISN'T IDEAL,
ピリ
HOWEVER WITHOUT ME TO SERVE AS YOUR GUIDE
You...
Will never be able to get out of here!
♡
ONLY THE EXECUTIVES OF THE GOD BURIERS POS-SESS THE KNOWLEDGE NEEDED TO COME AND GO FROM ONE DIMEN-SION TO ANOTHER
WHAT?

THEREFORE I ADVISE YOU TO ACHIEVE YOUR MISSION...
THROUGH THE FASTEST MEANS POSSIBLE! AND WITHOUT UPSETTING ME OF COURSE!
OTHERWISE YOU WILL STAY CONFINED HERE FOREVER
UNLESS THE OTHER BURIERS FIND YOU AND EXECUTE YOU!
.....!


No signal
Sorting by group
Arcana Izumi
Arcana Makino
GOOD IDEA
I'LL PHONE HIM!
HINATA
CHECK WITH IZUMI!

FROM WHAT I SEE, YOU WEREN'T AWARE
DESPITE ME WARNING ARCANA'S CEO
IT APPEARS THAT YOU'VE BEEN PLAYED!

I don't have a signal!
DIDN'T I JUST TELL YOU?

MY HEART IS BEATING WILDLY!

THEREFORE ALL YOUR COMMUNICATION WILL BE PASSING THROUGH ME!
ONLY THE EXECUTIVES ARE ALLOWED TO STAY IN CONTACT WITH THE OUTSIDE

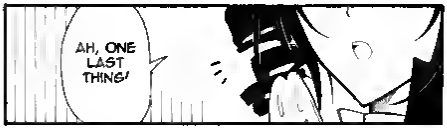
FUCKING BITCH!
I WANT YOU TO RETURN ALIVE
KILLING YOU WOULDN'T GET ME ANYWHERE!
OH NO, SURELY NOT!
WHAT'S STOPPING YOU FROM JUST CUTTING OUR THROATS THE FIRST CHANCE YOU GET?
THIS SUCKS...
FIRST, HOW CAN WE BE SURE THAT YOU REALLY WILL HELP US?
I'M ON YOUR SIDE DON'T WORRY
THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO GIVE THEM ALL THE INFORMATION THEY DESIRE AND HELP YOU IN YOUR MISSION!
ALSO, I ONLY RECEIVED AN ADVANCE FROM ARCANA...
WHAT YOU FIND OUT MUST REMAIN IN AGREEMENT WITH THE PRICE I'M BEING PAID!
I DON'T HAVE THE INTENTION TO LET OUT INFORMATION THAT WOULD DISADVANTAGE US TOO MUCH
OR MAYBE NOT
TO BE HONEST...

WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT...
BEFORE, I HEARD YOU MENTIONING THE NAME...
...TSUKIMIYA.
カリ
WELL, I CAN'T TELL YOU ANYTHING ABOUT HER!
AH...
BY THE WAY
TSK...
TOKIWA GUARDS HER WITH PARTICULAR CARE...
IF YOU INSIST ON LOOKING FOR HER, IT WILL BE WITHOUT ME!
This check doesn't make our task any easier...
THAT BEING SAID, I WON'T PREVENT YOU FROM INVESTIGATING, IF YOU WISH
DO WHATEVER FEELS RIGHT TO YOU!

CRACK
Pfft
IF YOU EVER ATTEMPT ANYTHING THAT RISKS COMPRO-MISING ME...
I WON'T HESITATE TO EXPOSE YOU BOTH STRAIGHT AWAY!
That raving lunatic.
KEEP THAT IN MIND
As a result, there's nothing that can guarantee she won't change sides again!
She may be an executive in the Buriers, but that didn't stop her from betraying them for money...
HOW EXCIT-ING!

EVERY TROOP REPORTS BACK AT A PRECISE HOUR
MINE IS AT FIVE O'CLOCK! SO, LET'S GO

SO
I HAVE TO REPORT BACK TO TOKIWA.


AH, ONE LAST THING!

NOW YOU LOOK LIKE...
ANY SQUADDIE OF THE SIXTH BATTALION!

IT FITS YOU LIKE A GLOVE!
♡

カツ
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BOYS
WOULD YOU PLEASE QUIT PANICKING?
Do you really want to attract attention?
カ
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カ
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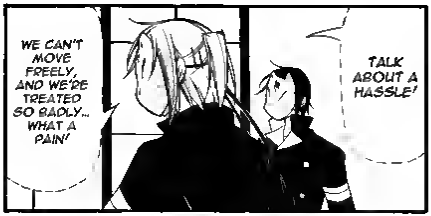
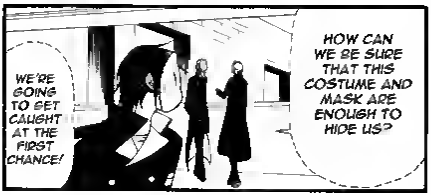
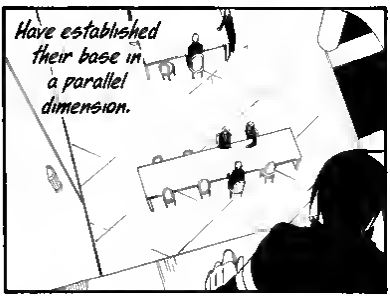
SORRY


WE CAN'T MOVE FREELY, AND WE'RE TREATED SO BADLY... WHAT A PAIN!
TALK ABOUT A HASSLE!

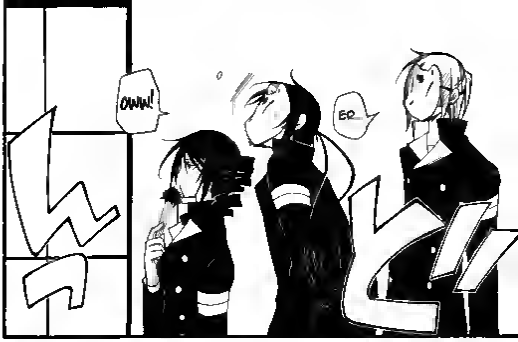

WE'RE GOING TO GET CAUGHT AT THE FIRST CHANCE!
HOW CAN WE BE SURE THAT THIS COSTUME AND MASK ARE ENOUGH TO HIDE US?

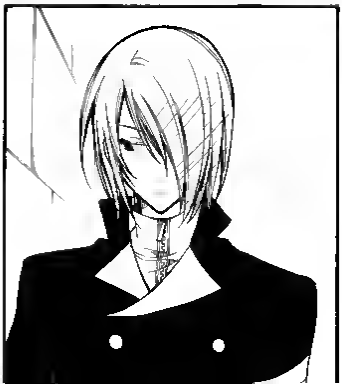
Do they really live in this space-time?


Have established their base in a parallel dimension.

The God Burriers...

Why did she stop all of a sudden?
!?
WH


OWW!
ER

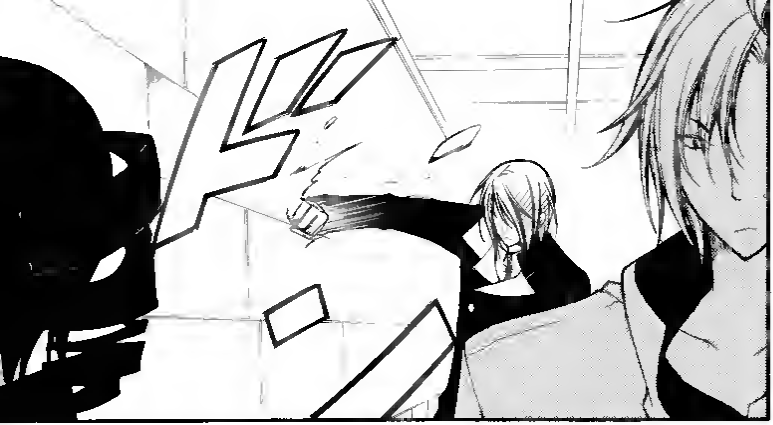


THAT GUY, I'VE SEEN A HIM!
DAMN!
THIS COULD BE TROUBLE-SOME
Psst
TSK...
THE GUY WHO'S HEADING STRAIGHT FOR US...
I ALMOST FOUGHT WITH HIM WHEN THEY ATTACKED ARCANA!
For pity's sake, hide me!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
HEY
WHAT A COINCID-ENCE!
HELP!!
THE SIXTH BATTALION CAPTAIN!
HEY, IT'S THE LADY WITH THE LOVELY RINGLETS...

IS IT YOUR TROOPS' TURN? YOU'RE SO LUCKY TO COME LAST!
YOU'RE PRETTY LATE IN PRES-ENTING YOUR-SELF.
OH, REAL-LY!
THEN, YOU MUST THINK
IT'S SUCH A PITY WE'RE SUBJECTED TO THE SAR-CASM OF THE SMALLER NUMBERS. YOUR REA-SONING IS SO SIMPLISTIC
THAT SINCE MY TROOP HAS THE HIGHEST NUMBER, WE'RE THE MOST USELESS?
FOR EXAMPLE, I CAN TELL THAT YOU MUST BE THE CAP-TAIN OF THE THIRD BATTAL-ION
YOU ARE LAST IN TERMS OF SKILL AND INTELLI-GENCE!
SO...
IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME, WE ARE IN A HURRY!
I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU

I NEED TO TAKE A LITTLE BREAK!
I HAVE WEAK LEGS...
WHAT A WAY TO BEHAVE!
WELL, WELL...
SORRY, BUT YOU'LL NEED TO GO ANOTHER WAY!
SHE IS JUST MAKING FUN OF YO
OMA, DON'T PLAY INTO HER GAME...
QUIET!
BY PUTTING YOUR BIG FOOT IN FRONT OF ME...
YOU ONLY MANAGED TO ANNOY ME EVEN MORE!
WHAT A HAS-BEEN!
MORE-OVER, YOU'RE VULGAR AND BORING
TSK... YOU ARE SO PREDICTABLE THAT IT'S TIRING...
YOU ARE GOING TO GET OUT OF MY WAY...
AND LET ME PASS!

HEY!
THE CAPTAINS OF THE THIRD AND SIXTH BATTALIONS ARE GETTING WORKED UP AGAIN!
THEY GET ALONG LIKE CATS AND DOGS
STOP THEM, KIKU-SAKA!
MERE SOLDIERS AREN'T ABLE TO!
Phew...
YOU'RE HURTING MY EARS
I'M SLEEPY
I WAS UP PLAYING WITH ICHIKAWA UNTIL EARLY MORNING!
Don't fall asleep! It's your turn!
Let me sleep...
Phew...
HEY?
DID HE SEE ME?!
DID HE RECOGNIZE ME?!
HE'S LOOKING OVER HERE
ピク
OKAY
THEY'RE GREAT BUDDIES, THOSE TWO!
YOU SHOULD FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE, YOU GUYS!



OMA, I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO MAKE TOKIWA WAIT...
HOWEVER, KANAOE WILL BE LATE FOR HER REPORT!

I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR SQUABBLING.

SO MOVE ASIDE!
OON'T MAKE THINGS DIFFICULT!

P!!t
TSK...

.....

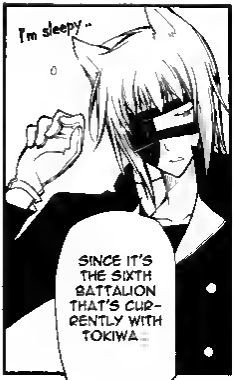
THOSE TWO SOLDIERS MUST BE NEW RECRUITS...
IT'S MY FIRST TIME SEEING THEM
That's enough! Let go of me!
GOOD EVENING...
KANADE, SIXTH BATTALION CAPTAIN...
REPORTING IN!
I'M LISTENING...
SPEAK!
GO AHEAD...
VERY GOOD, YOU'RE ON TIME...

The mission concerning the divine relic recently located in the vicinity of the Dead Sea
Has been achieved without much difficulty
Next time, we will leave with the Fifth Battalion...
COOL! WE CAN HEAR EVERY-THING!
WHEN DID YOU CAST THIS SPELL?
EARLIER, WHILE WE WERE WALKING
THAT GIRL TOLD US TO LEAD OUR INVESTI-GATION ALL BY OUR-SELVES..
SO WE CAN USE HER AS WE WISH!
VERY WELL.
THAT'S ALL...
NOTHING ELSE TO REPORT
WELL.
I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE...

JUST A MINUTE
IT'S POS-SIBLE...
THAT SOME OF OUR INFORMATION HAS BEEN REVEALED TO ARCANA
WOULD YOU HAVE AN IDEA ON THE ORIGIN OF THIS LEAK?
WHAT?

How is that possible?
BUT...
RIGHT NOW,
THE RIGHT HAND MAN OF THE LEADER OF ARCANA IS ON THE SEVENTH FLOOR OF THE EXTERIOR FACADE
ピラ
THAT SOME INFORMATION HAS FILTERED FROM OUR WALLS
I AGREE...
BUT IT'S STILL THE CASE
THAT'S PRETTY HARD TO BELIEVE
I DON'T BELIEVE IN COINCIDENCES
SOMEONE OR SOMETHING MUST HAVE ATTRACTED HIS ATTENTION
Arcana overdid it...
DO YOU WANT US TO ELIMINATE HIM?
ALTHOUGH BAD IDEA THAT WOULD BETRAY OUR PRESENCE
This makes it even more exciting!
What an idiot...
INDEED
WE ARE GOING TO LET HIM LIVE FOR NOW
ON THE OTHER HAND...

JUST TO BE CLEAR...
I'M ASKING FOR YOUR OPINION ON THIS MATTER.


I'm sleepy..
SINCE IT'S THE SIXTH BATTALION THAT'S CURRENTLY WITH TOKIWA...

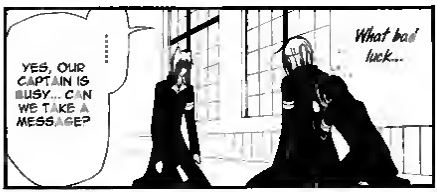
Phew..

COULD YOU WALK ANY SLOWER?!
YOUR MEETING TIME WAS AGES AGO!
EXACTLY, SO WHY HURRY?

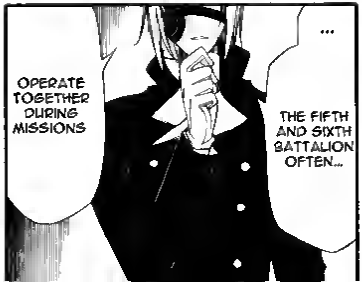
THERE HE GOES.. HE SUSPECTS HER FROM THE VERY BEGIN-NING
WE'D BETTER ABANDON HER AND GET AWAY WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY IF WE WANT TO SAVE OUR SKIN!
IDIOT!
WE NEED TO GET HER OUT OF HERE!
BUT THINGS ARE GOING TO GET UGLY, I KNOW THEY WILL..
ER...
Nobody can save us...
BE QUIET LET ME THINK!
AAAA AAH!
WHAT?!

ARE YOU PART OF THE SIXTH BATTALION?
IS KANADE STILL INSIDE?

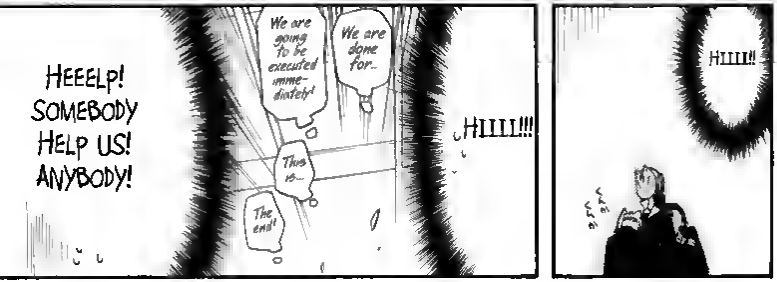
This guy also poses a problem, I bet...
!


YES, OUR CAPTAIN IS BUSY... CAN WE TAKE A MESSAGE?
What bad luck...

SFX: OH NO! ANOTHER GUY I'VE MET AT ARCANA!


OPERATE TOGETHER DURING MISSIONS
...
THE FIFTH AND SIXTH BATTALION OFTEN...

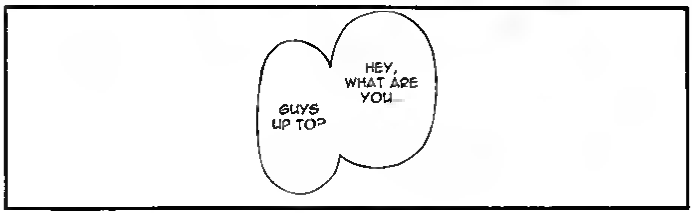
STILL, I DON'T RECOGNIZE YOUR SCENT!

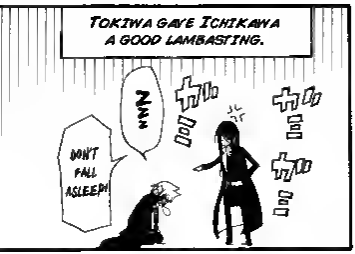

HEEELP! SOMEBODY HELP US! ANYBODY!
We are going to be executed immediately!
We are done for..
This is... The end!
HIIII!!!
HIIII!!

DO I HAVE AN IDEA ON THE ORIGIN OF THIS LEAK?

HMM...
AT THE MOMENT...
NOTHING COMES TO MIND
BUT...
AS SOON AS THE TRAITOR IS UNMASKED, YOU CAN COUNT ON ME.
KANADE, THE SIXTH BATTALION CAPTAIN OF THE GOD BUILDERS TO ADMINISTER THE SENTENCE HE DESERVES!
TRUST ME!
ON THAT NOTE...
HAVE A GOOD EVENING!
CREAK
VERY WELL...

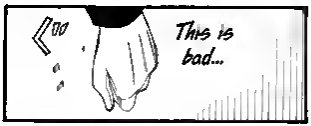
カルっ
セっ
や


HEY, WHAT ARE YOU GUYS UP TO?


TOKIWA GAVE ICHIKAWA A GOOD LAMBASTING.
Nnnn
DON'T FALL ASLEEP!

TSK...
THEY ARE ALREADY AWARE THAT ARCANA ARE ON THEIR TRACKS...
THIS COULDN'T GET ANY WORSE!

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF HOURS...
UNTIL THEY BECOME AWARE THAT WE'RE INTRUDERS!


This is bad...

How are we supposed to achieve our mission under these conditions?!
We don't have any exit door, no means to communicate with the outside...

The longer we stay here, the worse this situation gets...
We have to finish this quickly

On the first opportunity to leave this place!
And jump...

Tfft-
ヒロ
.....

ARE YOU HERE?
SETSU

YES...
DO YOU NEED ME?

BE HONEST...
DID YOU SELL OUT THE GOD BURIERS TO ARCANA?

IF BY THE GREATEST CHANCE THAT WERE THE CASE...
I WOULD DIE UNDER THE WEIGHT OF MY REMORSE
I HOPE YOU ARE TELLING THE TRUTH...
SETSU...
I ORDER YOU TO LEAD AN INTERNAL INVESTIGATION
BY USING YOUR OBSERVATION SKILLS...
YOU MUST UNCOVER THE TRAITOR THAT IS HIDING AMONG OUR SOLDIERS
WHAT SHOULD I DO ONCE I FIND HIM?

KILL HIM...

AND BRING ME HIS CORPSE AS PROOF!

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Artwork from the manga Tripeace
Colored by: Perky
perkyz.deviantart.com

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